

## India calls off talks with Pakistan

NEW DELHI (R) — India on Tuesday abruptly called off talks next week with Pakistan over deteriorating ties between the two neighbouring nations after accusing Pakistani intelligence agents of torturing an Indian diplomat. "We hope to resume the talks when the climate improves and some semblance of normalcy is restored," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. India expelled two Pakistani diplomats based in New Delhi on Monday and accused them of espionage after an Indian diplomat told reporters in Islamabad he had been abducted and tortured by Pakistani intelligence agents at the weekend. India and Pakistan were scheduled to hold talks from June 1 to 3 in New Delhi at foreign secretary level. "We waited for more than 36 hours to see if there would be any rational reaction to the blatant violation of international law and diplomatic conduct which took place in Islamabad," the Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "Regrettably, statements from various sources in the Pakistani government show no sense of regret or any remorse for the brutal treatment meted out to a senior Indian diplomat."

# Jordan Times

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## Conference issues recommendations

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day Anglican Church conference on refugees, which convened in Amman recently, has called for continuing the work of the Anglican Committee for Refugees. In its recommendations, the conference called for allocating the needed funds and manpower for issuing a periodical publication to follow-up work activities in the field of refugees and immigrants. Participants in the meeting, who represent 70 million in the world, stressed the important role played by the national and international churches, the International Council of Churches and non-governmental voluntary societies in assisting refugees. The participants called on national churches to share their experience with other churches in order to stimulate the international community to review its definition of "refugees" as stated in the 1951 United Nations Charter. They said that this definition, which considers the refugee as a person who hesitates to return home for fear of persecution, does not apply to millions of people who should be considered as refugees. They also pointed out that the bulk of refugees are children and women and urged churches to extend a helping hand to them and protect them.

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## Jordan recognises Afghanistan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. The cabinet heard a briefing by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber on the outcome of the recent Non-Aligned Movement meeting held in Jakarta. Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Essour briefed the cabinet on an economic Jordanian delegations talks in the Netherlands. The Cabinet decided to recognise the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

## Philip Habib dies

PARIS (R) — Philip Habib, the former U.S. special envoy in the Middle East, died of a heart attack on Monday during a private visit to France, the U.S. embassy said. Mr. Habib, 72, was visiting Palmyre Monachet near Besancon in the heart of the Burgundy wine-growing region.

## Mojaddidi in Pakistan

KABUL (R) — New Afghan President Sibtullah Mojaddidi arrived in Pakistan Tuesday on his first foreign trip since becoming interim head of state after the Afghan Mujahideen seized power one month ago. Afghan officials described Mr. Mojaddidi's visit as one to express friendship and thanks for Pakistan's support for the Mujahideen during 14 years of war against the former Soviet-backed Afghan government.

## France: Move on Lockerbie is Libya's

PARIS (R) — Arab League chief Esmat Abdul Meguid discussed Libya's dispute with the West with French President Francois Mitterrand on Monday and was told the ball was still in Tripoli's court, a French official said. Dr. Abdul Meguid told reporters after the meeting Libya had shown flexibility and the desire to find a solution to the dispute over the mid-air bombing of an American and a French airliner. But Mr. Mitterrand's diplomatic aide Pierre Morel said France, which wants to question four Libyans about the bombing of an UTA airliner over the Sahara in 1989, had yet to receive a positive response from Tripoli. "It is up to Libya to make a move," he said.

## Armenian president visits Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian arrived Tuesday for an official visit, the first since his country became independent last year. He will meet Wednesday with President Hosni Mubarak. Egyptian officials said their talks will focus on developing bilateral relations and regional and international issues. Foremost among these, they said, will be Middle East peace efforts and Armenia's conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh (see page 8).

## Somalis accuse Kenya of backing Siad Barre

NAIROBI (R) — A Somali armed faction has accused Kenya of giving military support of fighters of ousted President Mohamed Siad Barre, who fled into exile last month, the Somali faction's radio reported late on Monday. "There is a clear evidence that Kenya has been providing Siad Barre's remnants with arms, fuel, bullets and rations," said a spokesman of the Somali Liberation Army (SLA), an alliance of ethnic forces led by warlord Mohammad Farah Aided.

## Iranian doctor, family murdered

NICOSIA (AP) — A top Iranian physician and his family have been slain at their home in Tehran, and the suspected killer was killed hours later when his stolen car plunged into a canyon, according to reports reaching here Tuesday. The murders have become the talk of the town in Tehran, and are an indication of deteriorating law and order, which has been largely ignored by the official media.

## Israel continues Lebanon raids, but says it does not want war with Syria

AIN BOUSWAR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes blasted resistance bases in South Lebanon in a series of strikes on Tuesday, wounding four guerrillas and one civilian, security sources said.

Witnesses said four planes swooped on Hizbollah (Party of God) positions at least 10 times, firing some 40 rockets in all. The strikes, the third wave of Israeli attacks into Lebanon in less than a week, were carried out just north of the Jewish state's self-styled "security zone" set up to foil guerrilla raids across its northern border.

The Israeli military confirmed the raids and said its planes returned safely to base.

The stepped up air war stoked fears of conflict between Israel and Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon.

But Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said he accepted remarks of Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa Monday that Damascus did not seek confrontation.

"We had wars in the past with Syria and Syria was the aggressor, so if they have no plans for going to war, and I don't believe they do, there is no risk of war at all," Mr. Arens told Reuters.

In a rare mention of war since the start of Middle East peace talks, Mr. Sharaa said Monday his country would fight if Israel involves it in Israeli confrontations with Hizbollah.

Israeli officials earlier hinted at a possible limited strike against Syrian troops, accusing Syria of sustaining guerrillas in Lebanon.

He made no immediate comment on reports from Lebanon that Syrian gunners stationed in eastern Lebanon fired at Israeli jet fighters as they flew an apparent reconnaissance mission Tuesday.

It would be the first reported Syrian fire at Israeli forces in Lebanon in months.

Israel's former air force commander, Avihu Bin Nun, said that the reported Syrian firing was not unusual.

"To the best of my knowledge there has been no change in the Syrian approach which says that if we fly over their forces... they fire on us," Mr. Bin Nun told Israeli army radio.

"I don't think they are trying to escalate the situation as a result of this shooting," he added.

Asked whether there was concern the bombings could draw Lebanese-based Syrian forces into the fighting in Lebanon,

Ehud Gol, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said: "On the contrary, our steps against the Hizbollah are aimed at preventing an escalation."

"Basically we do what we do in order to put an end to infiltrations by the Hizbollah and attempts by Hizbollah to cause an escalation," Mr. Gol said. However, Zeev Schiff, a respected military correspondent for the Haaretz daily, warned that even if Israel did not intend to engage in a confrontation with Syria, the situation might get out of hand.

"We have to take into consideration... when we operate close to Syrian positions (in Lebanon), in an area where there are Syrian ground-to-air missiles, that they can hit one of our planes... and the situation can explode," Mr. Schiff told Israel Television.

Shortly before Tuesday's raids, Hizbollah vowed to continue its guerrilla war against the Israelis in the south.

"We assert that the resistance operations will continue to defend our people and to regain our occupied land," Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, Hizbollah secretary-general, told reporters.

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## Cheney: Reports of U.S. superpower plans 'garbage'

BRUSSELS (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has denied the Pentagon intended to quash the emergence of American allies as superpowers and described news reports of leaked classified documents as "garbage."

A defence department planning document, leaked to the U.S. media earlier this year, caused a stir in European capitals and in Japan because it appeared to endorse U.S. domination of the international stage now the cold war is over.

France, leading efforts to create more independent European defences, was outraged.

The New York Times and Washington Post reported on Sunday the United States had backed away from an early draft of the six-year budget plan, which suggested Washington should prevent the rise of new competitors, even among allies.

Mr. Cheney, in Brussels for a NATO meeting, said the early draft might have been poorly phrased. But he added it had been changed in the final version which he signed last week and sent to U.S. military chiefs.

"The interpretation that was given to the early draft was that we didn't believe in collective

security, (that) we had adopted a go-it-alone strategy in terms of how we were going to operate the world," he told reporters who travelled with him from Washington on Monday.

"That's garbage," he added. "The policy hasn't changed."

Senior U.S. defence officials told Reuters on Sunday that the document, used by the U.S. military to plan budgets, now emphasises strengthening ties with allies, keeping troops abroad and maintaining a strong military despite budget cuts.

Mr. Cheney said the Bush administration had done more to advance collective security than any in a long time.

"To suggest that we had this sort of fundamental change... I think was just a misinterpretation by the person who wrote the original story," he said.

"The first draft, that no one had signed off on, was a very early cut... some of it might not have been as artfully phrased as it might have been if you knew it was going to be in the Washington Post."

He said a second draft was apparently leaked by the same person and reflected several months of work.

## Waldheim successor plans rapid normalisation of ties

VIENNA (R) — Austrian President-elect Thomas Klestil plans a rapid normalisation of ties with countries which boycotted outgoing head of state Kurt Waldheim because of his wartime past in the German army.

Dr. Klestil told his first news conference after a landslide election win on Sunday that he would be going to the United States — which barred Dr. Waldheim from entry — and that ties with Israel would be restored to full ambassadorial level.

"Ties between Austria and Israel were, in substance, good. What was abnormal was that our embassies did not have full ambassadors," Dr. Klestil said.

Israel withdrew its ambassador from Vienna shortly after Dr. Waldheim was elected amid a storm of protest abroad, in 1986. Dr. Klestil said he was "sure that this formal distinction will be corrected by exchange of accreditations."

"As soon as possible I will also make a series of working visits to the most important European Community (EC) capitals," he added.

Austria is due to open full negotiations with the EC on the terms of its planned membership

early next year. Dr. Klestil, a former diplomatic envoy to the United States and a friend of ex-President Ronald Reagan, said he hoped to visit the U.S. soon but set no date.

Dr. Waldheim, who hands over office Dr. Klestil on July 8, was severely handicapped by the controversy over past. Although he denied any involvement in Nazi war crimes, he faced a virtual boycott in the West.

He was received in Arab and Third World capitals and by Pope John Paul. But Western government leaders visiting Austria would avoid Vienna to escape the obligation of seeing him.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was the only major Western leader to host Dr. Waldheim publicly, several months after Dr. Waldheim's June 1991 announcement that he would not seek a second six-year term.

Dr. Klestil, of the same conservative peoples party (OEPV) as Dr. Waldheim, inflicted a crushing defeat on Social Democrat (SPOE) candidate Rudolf Streicher. His margin of victory — 57 per cent to 43 per cent — was the largest in a presidential election since World War II.

## Solh cabinet to focus on south, economy

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's new government said on Tuesday it would focus its efforts on reviving the country's economy and pushing for an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon.

Officials said the cabinet of Prime Minister Rashid Solh, formed on May 16, would stand a vote of confidence in parliament on Thursday.

It sent a formal statement of its programme to the assembly on Tuesday, saying it would seek the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 425 and 426 stipulating an unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon.

"The government strongly denounces the Israeli occupation of parts of Lebanese territory and the continuation of attacks on our people. It will work to liberate all its territory from this occupation," the programme said.

"The cabinet holds to well-established Lebanese stands and the right of the Lebanese government and people to confront the occupation and use all available means to liberate their land, the programme added.

The programme said resolving the country's acute economic crisis was the government's top priority.

The cabinet would adopt a belt-tightening policy to cut public spending, reduce a huge deficit in the projected budget, decrease public debt and develop the state's tax collection system, it said.

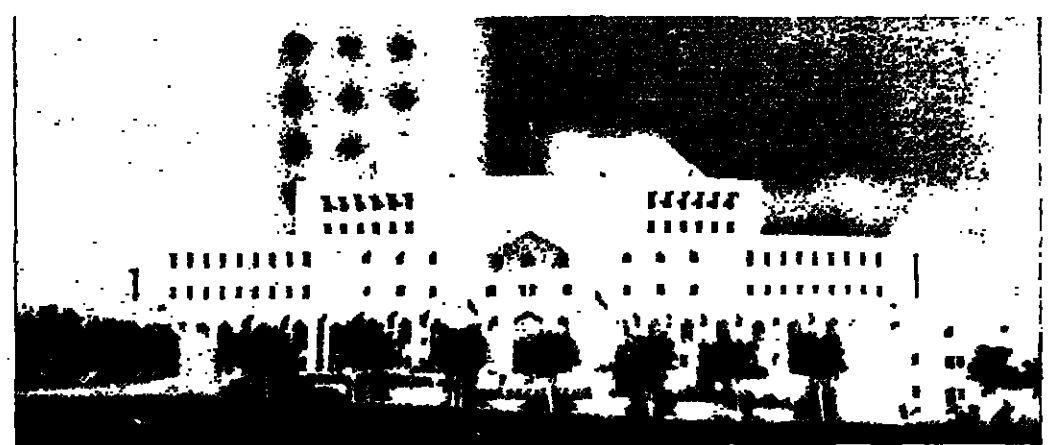
The programme added that the government would pursue promises of financial aid by Arab and friendly nations.

The Lebanese pound fell further on Tuesday, closing at a rate of 1705 against the dollar, compared with Monday's 1650, the central bank said.

The deterioration of the pound, which has lost half its value since February, has sent prices soaring by around 75 per cent, driving many people below poverty line.

Bread riots across Lebanon toppled the cabinet of Premier Omar Karami on May 6.

Mr. Solh's cabinet also pledged to supervise parliamentary elections, the first in Lebanon in 20 years, this summer.



Designers' vision of the new Palace of Justice

## New Palace of Justice expected to be completed in 45 months

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday laid the foundation stone for a new complex to serve as the Palace of Justice at Abdali, a project that will cost JD 12 million and to be implemented in 45 months.

The complex will be set up on 47 dunums of land and will be of eight floors, according to the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, which is sponsoring the project.

King Hussein unveiled a commemorative plaque at the construction site marking the formal commencement of work on the project being launched as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of Independence Day.

Present at the ceremony were Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, speakers of Parliament and other dignitaries and high ranking army officers as well as invited guests.

The Ministry of Public Works said that the design of the new complex was in the traditional Islamic and Arab architectural style. The new quake-resistance complex will have 11 courts in addition to units and wings for judges.

Justice Minister Yousef Mbeideen said the new complex will no doubt provide a favourable

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## Palestinians call for European sponsorship for peace process

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — Palestinian leaders say they want the European Community (EC), to co-sponsor the Middle East peace negotiations because it has more at stake than the talks' current co-sponsors.

"The EC has not just a greater interest but realistically has a better role to play" in the Middle East than Washington and Moscow, said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the talks.

"In terms of superpowers, the

age of the bipolar world is over," she told a news conference after meeting with Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek.

Israel has opposed giving the EC equal status with Washington and Moscow because of pro-Arab stances taken by some members of the 12-nation trade bloc.

The EC attends the talks under the status of a participant "alongside" the United States and Russia, with far lesser decision-making powers than the two co-sponsors.

The EC headed a multilateral

session on economic cooperation earlier this month, but was barred on Israel's request from sending a full delegation to similar arms control talks in Washington.

Dr. Ashrawi said Europe's political clout had increased since the collapse of the Soviet Union, which was co-sponsor when the talks started last October in Madrid. She called "Israel's known hostility to Europe... counterproductive."

Nabil Shaath, an aide to Pales-

(Continued on page 5)

## Sudan peace talks open; few signs of compromise

ABUJA, Nigeria (R) — Sudan's Islamic government and autonomy-seeking rebels opened talks in Abuja Tuesday with calls for peace but few signs that either side might shift position to end one of Africa's longest-running civil wars.

"We are here, keen and determined for peace and to end bloodshed," Colonel Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa, speaker of Sudan's transitional parliament, told the Nigerian-sponsored conference.

He accused the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) of kidnapping children, violating human rights and destroying mosques and schools.

The mainstream SPLA group of John Garang, who said peace could be achieved only through dialogue, in turn accused the Khartoum government of racial and religious discrimination.

"Racial and religious apartheid is the central issue of Sudan," William Nyong Bany, Colonel Garang's number two, said in his address.

Each Sudanese delegation has nine members. Despite the lack of overt compromise at this stage of the talks, likely to last up to a week, delegates said there was hope for peace.

"There is some hope. Even if we don't achieve much, at least we have started the talks," said Col. Garang's spokesman Richard Mulla.

The first session broke up after two hours for procedural discussions ahead of an expected meeting on Wednesday with Nigeria's military president, Ibrahim Babangida, current leader of the Organisation of African Unity.

(Continued on page 5)

## Black Sea fleet to leave commonwealth control

MOSCOW (R) — The big Black Sea fleet of the former Soviet Union is to be removed from joint commonwealth control and divided between Ukraine and Russia, the commonwealth's top military commander said on Tuesday.

Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the commonwealth armed forces, told journalists that bilateral talks between Russia and Ukraine would determine how to divide up the fleet.

Marshal Shaposhnikov said the last nuclear weapons carried aboard the fleet's 380 ships had been moved away earlier this month in an overnight convoy.

Russia had originally said the fleet should stay under commonwealth control and form part of a joint strategic force, but Ukraine disagreed. It said it was entitled to large portions of the fleet, which is based in the Crimean port of Sevastopol.

Disputes between Russia and Ukraine over the division of the former Soviet military machine, including the Black Sea fleet,

have rocked the commonwealth since its formation last December.

Asked if the Black Sea fleet remained part of the joint strategic force after Tuesday's meeting of the commonwealth defence chiefs, Marshal Shaposhnikov said: "No it did not."

Deputy Ukraine Defence Minister Ivan Bizhan told reporters after the news conference that in addition to the Black Sea fleet, paratrooper forces and most of the former Soviet air force had also been excluded from the strategic forces.

He said the decisions corresponded to an earlier Ukrainian proposal to have a slimmer strategic force.

The moves leave the strategic nuclear troops and nuclear-carrying detachments of the air force and the navy as the only effective joint commonwealth force.

Russia, before starting to build its own armed forces, had advocated a much larger joint commonwealth army.

## Israelis plan to expand Gaza colony

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Jewish settlers in the Israeli-occupied territories said on Tuesday they intended to expand a Gaza Strip settlement to include mobile homes and classrooms for seminary students.

Settler spokesman Aharon Domb said 15 families of students and teachers would move by early next week into the homes and neighbouring Kibbutz Netzarim, a religious collective settlement of eight families.

Israel's leading leftist bloc Meretz, which is contesting Israel's June 23 parliamentary election, said it would try to stop what it called the creation of a new settlement.

Washington, Israel's closest ally, views settlements as an obstacle to Arab-Israeli peace efforts. Settler leaders claim a biblical right of Jews to settle in the occupied territories.

Some 110,000 settlers live in fortified enclaves among 1.75 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. More than 140,000 Jews have moved into neighbourhoods in and around Arab East Jerusalem.

The army barred the 750,000 Palestinians of the strip from entering Israel for a second day on Tuesday following the stabbing death of an Israeli girl by a Gaza worker in the town of Bat Yam near Tel Aviv.

Israeli soldiers shot and wounded 79 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in clashes on Sunday and Monday after three Islamic activists and an Israeli policeman were killed in a gunbattle there, Palestinians said (see page 2).

## Government critic wins Kuwaiti chamber poll

KUWAIT (R) — A leading government opponent on Tuesday won Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce elections widely seen as a dry run for national polls in October.

Official results issued a day after the voting showed followers of Abdul Aziz Al Saqr won all 24 board seats, defeating a group of well-known businessmen seen as backed by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Mr. Saqr, incumbent chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and a member of the family which controls the leading liberal daily Al Qabas, has been the target of virulent attacks in pro-government papers.

But he has mustered support from a formidable list of leading businessmen and bankers — the traditional merchant class that has been the backbone of political opposition to the ruling Al Sabah family.

Both government and opposition campaigned vigorously

ahead of the vote, the first in Kuwait since Western and Arab forces evicted Iraqi troops from the emirate in February last year.

"The results of this election have a big political significance because of the lobbying the government did to try and get rid of Saqr," one diplomat said.

"It is one of the few occasions since liberation that the government did not get its way," he added.

The 24 new board members are expected to elect Mr. Saqr as chairman of the board which he has headed since the chamber was founded in the early 1960s.

Unofficial figures said more than 11,000 of the 16,000 people eligible to vote for the new Chamber of Commerce board took part in the polls, including women.

The total Kuwait electorate stands at 80,000. Women are not allowed to vote in general elections.

## Soviet party likened to Nazis in Moscow court

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The banned Soviet Communist Party was on Tuesday effectively condemned to face trial for its record over 70 years of iron rule as a leading lawyer likened its position to that of the Nazis after World War.

The constitutional court of the new Russian state ruled in a landmark decision that it was competent to hear charges that the once all-powerful party grossly violated the laws of the old Soviet Union, which collapsed last December.

Former top Kremlin leaders in the central Moscow courtroom gestured angrily as Andrei Makarov, legal counsel for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, suggested a parallel with Adolf Hitler's National Socialist Party.

Mikhail Gorbachev, party leader from 1985 until he resigned after the coup during which he was himself put under house arrest, was not present in court for the hearing though several of

his former politburo colleagues were there.

These included Vladimir Ivashko, party number two at the time of the coup, one-time top ideologist Yegor Ligachev, former Industry Secretary Vladimir Dolgikh and former Russian Federation President Vitaly Vorotnikov. The court said Tuesday that Mr. Gorbachev or stand-in should represent the party.

Mr. Gorbachev was the last general secretary of the Communist Party.

A spokesman said Mr. Gorbachev was not aware of a ruling by the constitutional court.

The court adjourned its hearings to July 7 to allow the sides to prepare their cases. Besides Mr. Gorbachev, the court also ruled that Vladimir Ivashko, the party's last deputy general secretary, should represent it, along with Valentin Kuptsov, former first secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee.



## Israeli poll turns personal and nasty

TEL AVIV (AP) — Did Yitzhak Rabin have a nervous collapse 25 years ago? Does he drink? And did Yitzhak Shamir assassinate a colleague 49 years ago?

Whether the voters care is another question. But the very fact that the questions are being asked in public demonstrates the shift of Israeli politics, away from ideology and into the personal.

Leading up to the June 23 election, the big issues of war and peace, unemployment and immigration have barely surfaced. Instead, the shots are being aimed largely at the personalities of the main contenders: Prime Minister Shamir, 76, of the Likud Party, and Mr. Rabin of the Labour Party.

Like so much else, from skateboard accidents to the popularity of the cheeseburger, American influence is cited as the main force changing Israeli politics.

It started four years ago with a grass-roots movement to jettison Israel's unwieldy coalition system for the streamlined beauty of a directly elected leader.

Next came "primaries" — Israelis use the English word — to elect Mr. Rabin as Labour's candidate. With it came expressions like "the teflon candidate," where criticisms and charges do not stick, which Israelis use to describe the 70-year-old former general.

Now comes what columnist Nahum Barnea decries as "election junk food" — a litany of personal attacks whose main target is Mr. Rabin's war-hero image.

The facts are fairly well known. On May 23, 1967, Lieutenant-General Rabin was Israel's military chief of staff, and Egypt and Israel were readying for war. Consumed with self-doubt, blaming himself for the escalation, Gen. Rabin succumbed to the strain. He took a sedative injection, handed command to his deputy, and dropped out of sight for 24 hours.

Two weeks later, Gen. Rabin led his army in its six-day war, and emerged a hero. He went on to serve as ambassador to Washington, and was prime minister from 1974 to 1977.

His party has pushed Mr. Rabin to the forefront, hoping his military record and tough treatment of Palestinians will dispel its soft-on-Arabs image. Mr. Rabin's face, and his alone, features in party ads, under the slogan, "Israel is waiting for Rabin."

The Likud, lagging in opinion

polls, has sought to undermine that image by resurrecting the 1967 breakdown. So Mr. Rabin launched a preemptive strike last week by telling the story in painful detail to the daily Hadashot.

If nothing else, it was a remarkable act of soul-bearing by a man who is thought of as a cold, introverted man. In fact, some analysts believe it may boost his image by proving that he is human.

So far there is no indication that the issue has affected votes, but both sides are claiming victory. "Your slandering of Rabin only brings us more voters," crowed a Labour ad. "Rabin fell into our trap and we're delighted," boasted Likud spokesman Yossi Achmeir.

"The whole mudslinging thing is quite new in Israeli politics," says Elihu Katz, an opinion pollster. But he adds he has no data to suggest it is swaying voters.

Mr. Achmeir said Labour asked for it by focusing its entire campaign on Rabin.

"If Rabin is supposed to be such a saviour... it's our job to show the public how he copes under pressure," Mr. Achmeir said in an interview.

Labour activists have hit back by floating stories in the press about Mr. Shamir's role in executing a member of his underground army in 1943. Mr. Shamir has not commented.

Likud has tried to reopen the question of Mr. Rabin's drinking habits. Mr. Rabin acknowledges taking "an occasional drink" but says it's nonsensical to suggest his judgment is affected.

Lately, indications are that both sides want to pull back. Likud leaders have expressed qualms about the attacks on Mr. Rabin. Old-guard Labourites, who remember when elections were about ideology, not candidates, are uncomfortable with the new trend.

Some of the nastier attacks have come from low-level activists, and may have gone unnoticed but for the fact that the Israeli press also has changed, and is more ready to headline candidates' personality flaws.

Columnist Barnea says Mr. Rabin shares the blame.

"Rabin is a devout believer in the Americanisation of Israeli politics," he wrote Sunday in the daily Yedioth Ahronoth. "So devout that he fails to see the damage that the personalisation of politics has done to the quality of American government."

## Arab League chief calls for easing of Iraqis' suffering

PARIS (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Maguid called on Monday for U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq to be eased because of the suffering they caused the Iraqi people.

He said Baghdad had accepted, and was implementing, all U.N. Security Council resolutions arising from the Gulf war that followed its August 1990 occupation of Kuwait.

"I can assure you that all Arab League countries without exception have taken a very clear stance on easing the suffering of the Iraqi people," he told a news conference after a meeting of the Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce.

The former Egyptian foreign minister said the league was trying to arrange a trade-off between the release of some 850 remaining Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq and an easing of an economic embargo that has caused shortages of food and medicines.

"The reaction of the two countries has been positive... and I hope we will be successful in

achieving an easing of the suffering of the Iraqi people in exchange for the freeing of the Kuwaiti prisoners," he said.

The number of Kuwaitis still in Iraq has been in dispute since the Gulf war over the emirate ended last year. Baghdad has denied it is still holding Kuwaiti prisoners and offered the Red Cross access to prisons and detention camps to search for people Kuwait has reported missing.

Dr. Abdul Maguid, who was meeting President Francois Mitterrand on Tuesday, also praised Libya's stance on the conflict with Britain, the United States and France over the bombing in mid-air of two airliners.

"Libya has shown flexibility and a desire to find a solution to avoid escalation in this very sensitive region," he said.

Dr. Abdul Maguid said Libya had accepted the application of U.N. Security Council Resolution 731.

"We hope that in the coming days we will see a serious effort to find a solution which will satisfy all sides," he said.



An Israeli attacks a Palestinian construction worker in a Tel Aviv suburb

## Israel, occupied territories flare with tension

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli assailants stabbed and seriously injured an Israeli Arab man on Monday in relations for stabbing death of an Israeli girl by a Palestinian, Israel Radio reported.

The attack capped a day of increased tension in Israel and the occupied territories.

Ten Israeli youths stepped out of two cars on Monday evening and attacked an Arab, who was standing alone at a building site in Rishon LeZion, a southern suburb of Tel Aviv.

An Israeli army officer dispersed the group, the radio report said, and alerted the police. The Arab, a resident of Nazareth, was in serious condition at a Tel Aviv Hospital. Police detained five youths in connection with the incident. Israel Radio did not name the Arab.

Palestinians said at least 27 Gaza Strip residents were wounded by Israeli soldiers on Monday, bringing the number of injured to 79 in two days of widespread confrontations.

The Red Eagle military arm of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) claimed responsibility for Monday's killing of Naim Abu Ishra, 35, in the town of Rafah, Palestinian sources said.

Last week a respected former PFLP activist was one of the first Palestinians to speak out against collaborator killings that have so far cost at least 470 lives.

Mr. Abu Ishra was the first suspected collaborator killed since Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat called on Saturday for an end to the killings.

The 27 Palestinians were

wounded in clashes throughout the Gaza Strip. Demonstrations erupted on Sunday after Israeli forces killed three Palestinians in a gunfight in Gaza.

An Israeli para-military policeman was also killed.

In the Central town of Bat Yam, an Israeli girl stabbed to death by a Palestinian from Gaza was buried under heavy guard while some mourners chanted "Death to Arabs."

Police were holding Foad Abdul Atti Amran for the killing of Helena Rapp, who was stabbed to death as she waited for a bus in Bat Yam, another southern suburb of Tel Aviv. Amran, 19, is a resident of the Nuseirat refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Another Arab was arrested in connection with the murder, although Amran maintains he was acting alone, Israel Radio

said.

In occupied Jerusalem, police dispersed a crowd of Israelis who threatened to march on a neighbouring village in retaliation for the torching of six Israeli cars on Sunday morning.

An Israeli girl filed a complaint against extreme-right wing parliamentarian Rehovam Ze'evi for slapping her during Rapp's funeral, Israel Radio said. The 17-year-old girl, a member of the anti-Arab Kach movement, was shouting slogans at Ze'evi. Mr. Ze'evi said he slapped the girl in self defence.

Police arrested another youth for tossing a bottle at Police Minister Ronnie Milo during the funeral. Mr. Milo was unhurt.

Politicians from both major parties called for an indefinite closure of the Gaza Strip.

The Labour Party, trying to gain votes in the June 23 national

poll at the expense of the ruling Likud Party, said in a radio election pitch on Monday it alone could bring Israeli security.

"This government is helpless. They cannot control this situation," charged Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, a former general running in the Labour line-up.

The party, led by former army chief Yitzhak Rabin, sought to portray itself as the party of security and has emphasised Mr. Rabin's role in the 1967 Middle East war.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens ordered the Gaza Strip closed for three days from Sunday, preventing travel between the area and Israel.

Such measures have in the past been criticised by liberals. This time the action was widely supported in what seemed to be an attempt by opposition parties to show they stood for security.

## Soviet party funded PFLP — Yeltsin aide

MOSCOW (R) — The old Soviet Communist Party supplied arms to a hardline Palestinian group in the mid-1970s to use in attacks on American and Israeli targets, a senior Moscow official said on Monday.

Sergei Shakhrai, a close aide to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, read to a news conference extracts from a declassified top-secret document which he said was one of thousands proving the party had close links to international groups.

The document said "a shipment of foreign arms and ammunition was delivered by the (KGB) committee of state security to the head of external operations for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on May 14, 1975."

The Damascus-based PFLP is led by George Habash. It is one of the factions making up the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). It subscribes to a Marxist ideology and refuses to abandon armed struggle as a means of achieving self-determination for Palestinians.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, several American and Israeli diplomats were assassinated in Europe and elsewhere in bomb and gun attacks. Western intelligence officials said at the time they believed the PFLP was possibly responsible.

The weapons were to be used, according to the document from the now-banned party's archives, "to carry out operations against American and Israeli personnel in third countries, to carry out

acts of sabotage and terrorism."

Mr. Shakhrai, who briefly waved a copy of the document for journalists to see, said it would be used in a case of appeal filed by former party members in the country's constitutional court this week.

Mr. Shakhrai resigned from the Yeltsin administration earlier this month over differences with other top aides. He said he remained a strong backer of the Russian president and would lead the government case in the court hearing.

The court will decide whether Mr. Yeltsin acted constitutionally when he banned the Communist Party after last August's failed hardline coup in Moscow.

American and Israeli intelligence often accused the Soviet Union, which collapsed in December, of backing extremism in a bid to destabilise the West. Moscow always denied the charges.

According to the document cited by Mr. Shakhrai, the weapons were handed over "in connection with a decision of the Central Committee" — the body which decided all state and government policy during most of the 70 years of communist rule.

The document was dated May 16, 1975, Mr. Shakhrai said. This would mean the decision to deliver the arms to the PFLP was taken when the party leader Leonid Brezhnev was officially pursuing a policy of detente with the West.

## King Hassan pledges to go ahead with referendum

RABAT (AP) — Morocco is committed to holding a referendum on the independence of the disputed Western Sahara territory "at any date" despite a recent postponement, Moroccan King Hassan II said Monday.

"It is not us who are hindering the organisation of the referendum, or delaying it," King Hassan said on the Arab-language television network MBC. "Everyone knows that, while not completely satisfied with the latest resolution of the (United Nations) Security Council, Morocco will respect it."

The United Nations has given until May 31 for a peace plan to be put in place before seeking other means to solve the conflict, which dates from 1975, when Morocco annexed the territory and Polisario guerrillas launched an independence war.

"We want better, but we will not accept overstepping the resolution of the Security Council," King Hassan said.

He said he looked forward to a visit by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali "as soon as possible" to discuss organising the referendum, the centrepiece of a United Nations peace plan for the disputed territory.

It was to have been held in January, but was postponed indefinitely because of conflicts be-



King Hassan

tween the Polisario and Morocco, mainly over who can vote.

The United Nations wanted to base electoral lists on a 1974 Spanish census which put the number of native residents at 74,000. Morocco wanted to raise the number of potential voters by 120,000 to include Moroccan settlers.

Last week Polisario Front guerrilla leader Mohammed Abdul Aziz said the front is prepared to make concessions on the number of people who could vote.

But Morocco, which also claims the territory, must "take steps to unblock the situation," Mr. Abdul Aziz told the French newspaper Le Monde.

"There could be a certain margin of error ranging from 10 to 10 per cent in the 1974 census," he said. "But we cannot talk of a margin of error of 200 per cent."

## GCC still sees defence role for Egypt, Syria

RIYADH (R) — The secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said on Monday that Gulf Arab countries remained determined to implement the Damascus declaration giving Egypt and Syria a role in their defence.

Abdullah Bishara told a news conference on the 11th birthday of six-nation group that special teams from the GCC were still working up the "mechanism of a common security," in the Gulf and a "unified Gulf army."

These proposals would be studied by the GCC, which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, at its summit in Abu Dhabi next December.

Mr. Bishara did not say if the GCC had agreed on a date for a meeting scheduled for this month with Egypt and Syria to implement the "Damascus declaration" signed in March last year after Western and Arab armies ejected Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"The meeting should take place and (be) well-prepared because the Gulf countries are determined to implement this declaration," he said.

The pact envisaged the presence of Syrian and Egyptian troops in Kuwait and pledged a \$10 billion fund to help the two Arab allies.

The GCC has scaled down the amount to \$6 billion and is yet to decide on how to raise the money and on other details.

Mr. Bishara said the GCC would not discuss with Iran the dispute over a small Gulf island

jointly by Iran and Sharjah, member of the UAE.

"The UAE will handle this dispute within its experience and it will not be put for discussion between the GCC and Iran."

Iranian troops in March expelled about 60 workers who operated the power station, clinic and police post in a part of Abu Musa island controlled by Sharjah under a 1971 agreement signed with Iran a month before the formation of the UAE.

Suggestions that Iran preferred to deal directly with Sharjah over the dispute deepened suspicions of its intentions on the Arab side of the waterway that carries two-thirds of the world's oil exports.

Mr. Bishara said relations between Iran and the GCC should be set on the "basis of good neighbourliness, non-interference in others' internal affairs and the building of joint interests."

Mr. Bishara denied reports which said Tehran was asking the GCC to finance a railway project to link Iran with the Muslim republics of Central Asia.

He said Iran sought the help of the Islamic Development Bank which would discuss Tehran's request next month as well as the project's economic feasibility.

Concerning a territorial dispute between Bahrain and Qatar, Mr. Bishara said: "The GCC tries to solve all the issues within its own structure and if it fails to solve them there are other legal means to follow."

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

T: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO  
18:00 Le Monde est a vous  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Interpique  
19:30 News in Arabic  
20:00 Saved by the Bell  
21:10 Equinox  
22:00 News in English  
22:20 Challenger

### PRAYER TIMES

03:56 Fajr  
05:28 Sunrise (Dhuha)  
12:33 Dhuhr  
16:13 Asr  
19:37 Maghrib  
21:09 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 810740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraced Church Tel. 622066  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Assian International Church Tel. 811295  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823624, 654932  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot and dry and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas rough.

Amman Min./Max. temp.  
17/33  
Aqaba 24/40  
Dahra 15/35  
Jordan Valley 21/39

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Salah Al 'Usoud 649028  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikh 752405  
Dr. Khaled Huseyn 703522  
Dr. Abdul Odeh Al Lala 694046  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy 776336  
Al Asena pharmacy 637055  
Nasrallah pharmacy 626672  
Al Salan pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shamsan pharmacy 637660

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 631111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891228  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Department 63031  
Hotel Complaints 603800  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200

### QUEEN ALIA INTL. AIRPORT 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6  
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644212  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malha, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shamsan 664171/4  
Shamsan Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 843845  
Al-Mustashir Hospital 672227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6  
Indian, Al-Malajreen 771013  
Al-Rasheed, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6  
Army, Marja 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50  
Amal Hospital 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)83323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
Al Hikmah Modern Hospital (09)990990  
IBRA:  
Prince Basmah Hospital (02)75535  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72273  
Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital (02)97100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:00 Damascus (RJ)  
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)  
10:30 Doha (RJ)  
10:30 Paris, Geneva (RJ)  
10:30 London, Brussels (RJ)  
11:00 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
11:00 Rome (RJ)  
11:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)  
11:00 Athens (RJ)  
11:00 Cairo (RJ)  
11:00 Beirut (RJ)  
11:00 Amman (RJ)  
11:00 Jeddah (RJ)  
11:00 Aqaba (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:10 Karachi (PK)  
10:30 Cairo (MS)  
11:30 Jeddah (SU)  
11:30 Sanaa (Y)  
20:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)  
20:00 Damascus (PK)

#### DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:30 Istanbul (RJ)  
13:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
13:15 London (RJ)  
20:15 Aqaba (RJ)  
20:15 Riyadh (RJ)  
20:15 Colombo (RJ)  
20:15 Cairo (RJ)  
20:15 New Delhi (RJ)  
20:15 Riyadh (RJ)  
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
23:00 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
23:00 Sanaa (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:00 Damascus (PK)  
09:15 Beirut (AF)  
11:25 Cairo (MS)  
12:30 Sanaa (Y)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.  
Apple (red) 300/400  
Banana 300/400  
Banana (Mukammal) 300/400  
Cucumbers (small) 200/250  
Broad beans 300/350  
Cabbage 100/150  
Carrot 170/120  
Cauliflower 230/180  
Cucumbers (large) 80/40  
Cucumbers (small) 150/100  
Eggplant 180/70  
Garlic (green) 300/300  
Lemon 230/150  
Marrow (large) 100/50  
Marrow (small) 170/120  
Onion (dry) 150/100  
Onion (green) 150/100  
Oranges 300/250  
Peaches 300/250  
Pears 300/250  
Pepper (red) 250/200  
Pepper (green) 220/170  
Potato 240/200  
Raspberries 150/100  
Sage 170/100  
Tomato 220/180



## Visitors to occupied lands required to register names

AMMAN — As of the end of May, citizens from Jordan making visits to the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip should register their names at a number of police centres which organise the process of travel across the King Hussein Bridge, according to an official announcement by the Public Security Department (PSD) in Amman Tuesday.

The announcement said that registration for the crossing on June 1 starts on May 31 and the process of registration between May 31 and June 4 begins at 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. however after June 4, registration commences at 7:30 a.m.

Those heading for Jerusalem and Hebron can register their names at Arwa Bint Al Harith Girls School in Jabal Amman; those going to Gaza can register at the Israa Girls School near the Physical Educational College, close to the Sports City, while those going to Nabulus can register at Yaqoub Hashem Boys School at Tjma north-west of the Sports City, according to the PSD announcement. The announcement also said that the PSD plans to open other registration centres at the police departments of Irbid, Zarqa and Balqa at a later date.

For those with annual permits going back to the occupied territories, the PSD said they should produce an identity card or passport while those visitors should obtain temporary passports.

The PSD resorts to the registration procedure each summer in view of the huge number of travellers during the holidays wishing to visit relatives in the occupied territories.

## Journalist on hunger strike protests government censorship

AMMAN (AP) — A Jordanian journalist who wrote articles critical of PLO chief Yasser Arafat and other Arab leaders began a hunger strike Tuesday to protest government censorship.

Jamal Alawi, editor-in-chief of the Al Watan weekly, claimed the Ministry of Information stopped or delayed eight out of 11 issues of his newspaper.

Mr. Alawi accused the ministry of "suppressing dissenting views and fighting the freedom of press, expression and opinion."

Issa Jahmani, director of the ministry's Press and Publication Department, responded that Mr. Alawi has no licence to print his paper in Jordan and prints it in Beirut.

The Press and Publication Law stipulates that newspapers printed abroad are subject to



Pilgrims on their way to Mecca and Medina Tuesday listen to a speech by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi (Petra photo)

## Pilgrimage serves as tool for unifying Arabs, Muslims

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi said Tuesday that Jordan was exerting its efforts to re-establish unity among the Arab and Islamic ranks and is undertaking this mission as a religious and national task.

The annual pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina serves as an opportune occasion for unifying the Arabs and Muslims and restoring their solidarity, said the minister at a ceremony held at Yadudah, south of here, to bid farewell to a group of Muslims heading for the holy places to perform this year's pilgrimage.

Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Sheikh Tamimi said the Jordanian government was keen on providing security and decent life for the Jordanian people, enabling them to perform their religious duties and assume other responsibilities in various fields in an atmosphere of freedom, affection, amity and cooperation among all.

The group came from the Palestinian land occupied by Israel in the 1948 war.

The minister urged the pilgrims to serve as ambassadors for Jordan at the holy places, doing good in every way and calling for unity among Muslims.

He thanked His Majesty King Hussein for his directives on providing all means of convenience to the pilgrims passing through Jordanian territory on their way to Mecca. He also voiced appreciation to the Saudi authorities for facilitating the pilgrims' trip.

The pilgrimage by people from the occupied Arab territories and from Jordan is being organised through the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs which undertakes the task of engaging transport companies to transport the pilgrims to and from the holy sites and their accommodation at Medina and Mecca, plus it provides medical missions for medical services to the pilgrims.

On the way to the holy places, the pilgrims arriving here from the occupied territories are normally housed at a pilgrims city in the Jordan Valley, while those arriving here from Syria, Lebanon and Turkey are housed at another pilgrims city near the northern city of Ramtha.

Altogether, nearly 17,000 citizens from Jordan and the occupied Arab lands are expected to perform this year's pilgrimage to Mecca.

## UNESCO to consult with Jordan on any restoration of holy places

AMMAN (J.T.) — UNESCO, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Tuesday reaffirmed Jordan that it will refrain from taking any action with regard to the holy places in Jerusalem without prior consultations or coordination with the Jordanian government and obtaining its approval.

The message was conveyed to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi by UNESCO Regional Director Dr. Abdul Qader Al Atrash.

In discussing the question of restoring the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque in the holy city, Dr. Atrash told Mr. Hindawi that he was instructed by UNESCO Director in Paris Federico Mayor to say that the organisation would not contemplate any restoration action without approval by the Jordanian government, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The agency said that Dr. Atrash praised Jordan's stand with regard to the preservation of the holy and cultural heritage in the occupied territories and its total commitment to pursue efforts towards the restoration of the holy shrines.

Jordan last week told UNESCO that plans or projects related to or affecting the holy places should only be conducted through the Jordanian government and its responsible agencies which are the sole authority entrusted with such activities. The message was conveyed to UNESCO through Mr. Hindawi who referred to the restoration of the Dome of the Rock as Jordan's sole responsibility.

In manifestation of his commitment to and concern over the holy places and the danger threatening their structure, His Majesty, King Hussein had earlier announced the allocated of \$8,249,000 as a personal donation towards this vital project.

At the same time, Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif told a press conference here that Jordan rejects any international involvement in the restoration of Islamic shrines in Jerusalem and will not let anyone circumvent the Kingdom's role as custodian of the holy sites there.

For his part, Mr. Hindawi told Dr. Atrash that Jordan, under the Hashemite leadership, will never shrink its responsibility or duty towards the restoration of one of Islam's holiest shrines as well as the other Islamic and Christian holy places in the holy city. He referred to the King's offer to restore the Dome of the Rock, noting that the King's move was strongly supported and backed by the people of the occupied Arab territories as well as the Jordanian population as the project aims to safeguard the holy shrines.

In this vein, a national committee has been formed in Jordan in order to rally support for the Kingdom's endeavour. In its message to UNESCO last week, Jordan said that Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque are considered Arab Islamic and human heritage that have been cared for by Jordan through a special committee set up in 1954 and that the Kingdom has been caring for the holy sites over the past five decades.

It said that the Jordanian government, being legally responsible for the holy places, believes any ideas, plans, projects, acts or initiatives related to these places should be conducted through the Jordanian government and its relevant responsible agencies.

At the meeting between Mr. Hindawi and Dr. Atrash, matters related to cooperation between UNESCO and Jordan in educational matters were also discussed.

## Symposium discusses broadcast news technology

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Tuesday opened a symposium on the impact of new technologies in broadcasting news noting that apart from technology advances, democracy in Jordan has helped to promote the work of radio and television.

Despite its limited resources, the Radio and Television Corporation has succeeded in coping with the requirements of technological developments at all levels with regard to news coverage, said the minister in opening the seminar held at Amra Hotel in Amman.

He noted that the resumption of democratic life in the Kingdom has granted the Radio and Television Corporation further freedom and more freedom to operate and to reflect the views of various political currents on domestic and foreign issues alike. This freedom, said the minister, has clearly manifested itself in the news broadcasts on radio and television.

"In the first half of the 20th century, communications technology witnessed vast strides, thanks to the employment of various advanced equipment that revolutionised the process of communications around the world," said Mr. Sharif. He said that the employment of satellites has shortened distances among the five continents and brought information and news about the world to the doorsteps of all viewers and radio listeners.

Referring to the reception through satellite dishes and its impact on the third world, the minister said that reception of this nature can entail real threat to national cultures despite the



Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Tuesday opens a symposium on the impact of new technologies in broadcasting news (Petra photo)

fact that it would introduce other world cultures to the viewers.

The three-day seminar was organised by the Arab Broadcasting Union (ABU) in cooperation with the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation Friedrich Steftung Corporation of Germany.

Addressing the opening session was corporation Director Radi Alkhas who underlined the importance of the topics at the seminar which, he said, tackled the advances witnessed in the radio and television fields over the past few years.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### President opens military exhibit

AMMAN (Petra) — On the occasion of Jordan's independence anniversary and Army Day, University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh opened Tuesday at the university a military exhibition organised in cooperation with the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division. The exhibition includes various weapons and equipment used by the Armed Forces. Mr. Gharaibeh also opened at the exhibition a special pavilion of the Moral Guidance Department. The pavilion includes photos depicting visits by His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces to various army units and formations and some posters about the Great Arab Revolt.

### Yoth minister visits sports club youth

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Saleh Irsheidat Tuesday visited Al Jweidah Sports Club where he was briefed by its officials on the needs of the club. Dr. Irsheidat expressed the ministry's readiness to increase the ministry's support for the club and allocating a piece of land for it. The minister opened at the club a photography exhibition organised in cooperation with the Armed Forces on the occasion of Independence Day.

### Minister receives French ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour received Tuesday French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard. The meeting discussed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and France in economic and commercial fields.

### Parliament, Bulgarians discuss relations

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman and members of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Tuesday met with a Bulgarian parliamentary delegation currently on a visit to Jordan. The meeting discussed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Bulgaria in economic, commercial and touristic fields. The two sides agreed to set up working groups to define the framework of bilateral cooperation.

### Omani minister visits Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Omani Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Himoud Ben Abdullah Al Harithi will arrive in Amman today on a three-day visit to Jordan. Mr. Harithi will meet with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi and several Jordanian officials for talks on ways of enhancing Jordanian-Omani relations in various fields, particularly in religious affairs.

### Chinese delegation visits industrial city

AMMAN (Petra) — A Chinese Ministry of Energy delegation, which is currently in Jordan, Tuesday visited Amman Industrial City in Sahab and was briefed by its Director General Fayez Suheimat on the facilities and incentives the city offers to Jordanian industries. The delegation visited several electric equipment manufacturing companies at the city and commended the high level attained by these industries. The Amman Industrial City includes about 240 industrial projects, employing about 7,000 Jordanian workers.

### Writers organise festival

AMMAN (Petra) — On the occasion of Independence Day, the Jordanian Writers Federation will organise a cultural festival today in Al Karak Governorate, Secretary-General of the federation Abdul Fattah Hiyasat said Tuesday. Mr. Hiyasat said the festival which will be held at Hazaa A Majali Hall in the city of Karak, will include poetry recitals and addresses highlighting the achievements of Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein. The federation organised similar festival Monday in Amman in cooperation with the Arab Youth Forum.

### University opens anniversary festival

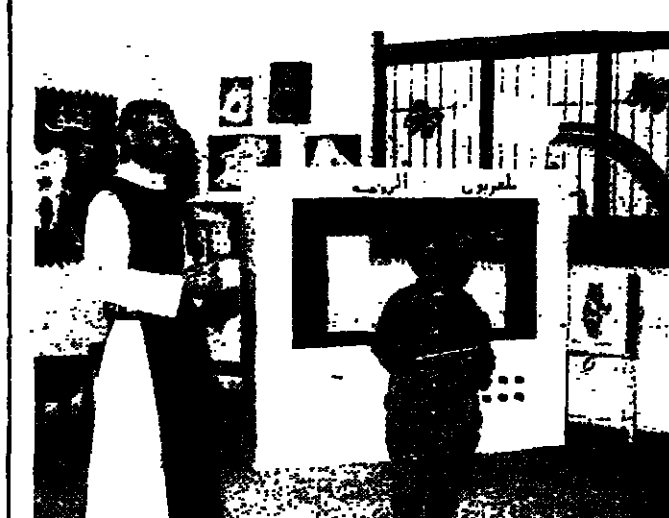
AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, Yarmouk University's Fine Arts Department will today open a festival to mark its 10th anniversary. The festival will include exhibitions of internal designs, graphics, knit-wear, photography, sculpture and woodworks, as well as musical and theatrical shows.

### Cooperatives office begins wheat harvest

NORTHERN SHUNEH (Petra) — The Northern Jordan Valley Region Cooperatives Office Tuesday started harvesting wheats planted over 1,500 dunums of land included in a project which aims to increase the production of improved seeds. The project, which benefits 18 farmers, is supervised by the Jordan Cooperation Organisation (JCO) which provides the needed harvest equipment, insecticides and counseling. The office director, Abdullah Al Salman, said that each dunum produces 250 to 400 kilograms of wheat. Under the terms of the project, the JCO will sell improved seeds to farmers at the rate of JD 140 per tonne and will buy their production at the rate of JD 175 per tonne.



BAUSCH & LOMB LENSES — Bausch & Lomb, the world's leading eye care specialists, present a new generation in contact lenses, Optima Soft Lenses. You can choose from a range of distinctive shades to subtly enhance your own eye colour or to make a dramatic change (natural, hazel brown, light green, green, blue and grey). Discover your new look with Bausch & Lomb Optima Colour Lenses. Ask your eye care professional for Bausch & Lomb Optima Colour Lenses Today.



### SCHOOL PRESENTS CHEQUE TO INSTITUTE

The children of the New English School in Amman has made a collection of JD 400 and presented the gift to the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf of Salt. The New English School children are also planning to participate in a sponsored swim at the Sports City in Amman on May 29, and will present the proceeds to a sports centre at Salt Children's School. Brother Andrew, head of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Salt, was present when Elizabeth Miraziz from the New School presented the cheque to Laila from the institute. The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, the first of its kind in Jordan, was opened by His Majesty King Hussein in 1964. From its modest beginning with two teachers and 36 children, it has now grown into a well established school with a maximum of 61 boarding children under its care. Most of the children, who come from a variety of backgrounds, live together with a party of the staff as a large family at the institute. The institute provides vocational training courses for the handicapped children. It also provides special courses to help the children to speak by applying the "oral approach" technique in education, thus helping them in developing a communicative skill.

## Jordan's airports witness decline in revenues

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian airports last year transported 455,245 evacuees fleeing the Gulf zone to Jordan on their way home, but the total number of passengers coming through Jordanian airports was 1,034,143, according to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Ahmad Jweiber.

Goods of various types handled by Jordanian airports at Aqaba, Amman and the Queen Alia international airports amounted to 62,376 tonnes in 1991 transported through 12,002 aircraft flights, Mr. Jweiber noted in a general report about the performance of Jordanian airports in 1991.

But generally, 1991 witnessed a decline in revenues collected in terms of fees for landing and other services at Jordanian airports since a temporary halt to air transport operations in the Middle East region, including Jordan, noted Mr. Jweiber.

He said that last year's revenues from such fees amounted to JD 4,733,99, compared with JD 7,710,444 in 1990.

Aqaba Airport was opened for air traffic 20 years ago on Independence Day anniversary while the Queen Alia International Airport has been in operation since Independence Day of 1953, noted Mr. Jweiber.

In outlining the various activities of the Amman Airport, the Royal Falcons and the Royal Queen Alia International Airport and the Aqaba International Airport, Mr. Jweiber said that the CAA has constantly been improving the facilities for air transport through the efforts of its staff and in cooperation with international organisations on air transport. Referring to the Aqaba Airport, he said that it assumes a significant air and ground communications link at the Gulf of Aqaba.

In 1987, he said, advanced communications equipment was installed at the Aqaba Airport, enabling it to provide better service to the incoming and outgoing planes from all directions. Referring to the Queen Alia International Airport, Mr. Jweiber said that the CAA last year spent JD 1,065 million on improving the facilities of the airport through installing new advanced aviation systems and new electric power generators, among other projects.

Mr. Jweiber said that the CAA is currently involved in preparing for a constant civil aviation exhibition in Jordan, displaying various aspects of civil aviation through a specialised library with books, publications and magazines on civil aviation, focusing on development in Jordan. He said that the CAA will be helped in this project by Royal Jordanian Airlines, the national airline, the Arab Wings, the Royal Jordanian Civil Aviation Academy, the Royal Falcons and the Royal Gliding Club.


## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by five Malaysian artists at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Lwailbeh.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ali Taleb and Rafic Nasiri at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of watercolours by Jordanian artist Laila Al Bustani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by the Nazareth School students at the French Cultural Centre.

### FILM

- ★ Video film entitled "Crownwell" at the British Council — 7 p.m.



## JORDAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN (JUW)

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## Violence serves Shamir?

THERE SEEMS to be an easy explanation for the new round of violence that has been gripping the occupied Palestinian territories and southern Lebanon in the last several days: Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud bloc need it for the upcoming Israeli general elections in a bid to defeat Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin and his party. Obviously Shamir is betting on the assessment that his people's sentiment is for being tough with the Arabs, whether in the West Bank and Gaza or Lebanon, and uncompromising over Israeli "security." In furtherance of that perspective, the Israeli prime minister is busy escalating his government's crackdown on the Palestinians under occupation as well as against the Lebanese people in southern Lebanon. Capitalising on the same sentiment, Rabin also is sabre rattling and promising even tougher posture against the Palestinians.

Late spring and early summer is usually the season when the despairing Palestinians take to the streets in larger number to express their frustration, particularly this time with the small-paced negotiations between Israel and the various Arab parties on eventual peace terms between them. This, in addition to the fact that both the bilateral and multilateral peace talks are effectively frozen till the outcomes of the Israeli elections and the U.S. presidential contest are determined, is a state of affairs that calls for solutions not inaction or violence. In order to channel temperaments positively rather than collide head on, the Israeli occupying forces should cease and desist from deploying their infamous death squads to murder suspected Palestinian nationalists. They should also end their systematic use of torture tactics against Palestinian prisoners, something that has drawn strong criticism from both the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Amnesty International (AI). Likewise, Israel must be persuaded to stop disrupting and undermining the stability that was painstakingly gained in Lebanon in the past few months by attacking and raiding southern Lebanon every so often.

Over and above these immediate concerns is the Israeli tone on the peace prospects in the Middle East. As long as the Likud-dominated government in Israel keeps on ruling out any meaningful compromises with the Palestinians and the other Arab parties to the peace process, the Arabs under occupation can only feel despair and in turn channel their emotions into more resistance and violence.

The international community spearheaded by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are dutybound to create a climate in the region that is conducive to the search for peace. By remaining seized with the situation in the occupied territories at all critical times, the council would be sending urgently needed signals that the eyes of the world are constantly on the events taking place there. There is no justification for the Security Council to remain aloof from the cycle of violence in the Middle East until one of the parties lodges a complaint to it. An immediate reaction by the president of the council is the least that parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict would expect under the prevailing circumstances. The destructive violence may have a chance to subside if the United Nations system takes itself more seriously, now and whenever there is need in the future.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR commented Tuesday on Israel's escalation of aggression in Southern Lebanon, noting that the current military adventure is creating a very serious situation at the regional and international levels. The daily said that at the same time the Israeli leaders are maintaining their campaigns of direct threats levelled against Syria and Lebanon with the clear aim of aggravating tension and paving the ground for an all-out Israeli war on the Arabs in a bid to secure more land. The paper said that the Shamir government is escalating this campaign to coincide with the Likud Party's election campaign to make more gains for the extremists and the right wing parties in Israel which call for continued Jewish settlement in Arab lands. The problems which the Likud are now facing inside Israel are being reflected in the form of acts of aggression on Lebanon and perhaps on Syria, and these might continue regardless of regional and international tensions they are causing as long as they serve Israel's purpose, said the daily. It said that what Israel is doing now is very dangerous and could endanger world peace and cause the total collapse of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discussed the ever increasing fees imposed by private schools on the students at the beginning of each new scholastic year, urging the Ministry of Education to take prompt measures to deal with this situation. More and more parents, have been complaining about the exorbitant fees at the private schools which justify the increase by claiming that the educational process costs a great deal nowadays, and the administrations to increase the fees, said Nazih. The writer said each year when the parents try to register their children they are confronted by at least a 10 per cent increase in the fees and hear the same excuses given them by the school administrations; the parents can do nothing about this situation except complain to the Ministry of Education which has so far done nothing to put things right. The ministry has said that it lacks appropriate legislations and laws to impose its rule and fix the fees rates, which means that the private schools will continue to impose increases in the fees at will, without being questioned, said the writer. He said that the justifications and excuses given by the school administrations are not convincing, and many are led to believe that the increases are meant to increase the income of the school owners. Now that the ministry realises that the private schools practices are going too far, it remains for this ministry to have regulations and laws enacted to deal with this awkward situation, the writer demanded. He said that the Ministry of Education should be empowered to fix the fees at various private schools and come to the help of the parents who have been at the mercy of the school administrations for so long.

## Economic Forum

# Growth, inflation and adjustment programmes

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

Our impression is that the Jordanian economy will fare pretty well on the front of economic growth this year. This has so much to do with the natural pulse of our economy and is completely independent of the so-called economic adjustment programme.

The flow of foreign aid, that is transfers, is one main factor contributing to this optimism. These transfers do not form a part of our national income or gross domestic product (GDP) but they invigorate the economy through their consumption and saving impact and thus contribute indirectly to economic growth. Foreign aid is linked with the political importance of Jordan, which is on the rise, and therefore that aid is here to stay.

The ongoing housing and construction boom is another positive factor. It is sucking workers from a labour market plagued with alarmingly high unemployment rates and thus creating new wages and salaries which contribute directly to the GDP. The new housing units which have been or will be completed in the course of this year, will be rented instantly and thus create another category of value added, namely rents which form an integral part of national income. The present flurry of housing activity is expected to continue because it will not be deterred by the credit squeeze. It is not only that housing activity is not normally tied to commercial bank credit, but it is also believed that the present housing boom will, if necessary, be financed from deposits which are kept abroad and at home.

A certain category of Jordanians who returned from Kuwait and other Gulf states have started their own businesses this year. The totality of the product of these businesses is an addition to GDP and thus forms part of its growth. Next year only the increase in their product will be counted as part of the growth of GDP. Some sort of an arithmetic trick is involved here whereby 1992 GDP will be compared with the low base of 1991 and thus will produce a healthy growth rate this year. But this arithmetic advantage will disappear in 1993. If a growth bottleneck is to develop, it will show in 1993 not this year.

But we are talking about real growth rates. The IMF-sponsored economic adjustment programme is replete with inflationary potentials to the extent that seriously jeopardises real growth prospects.

The inflationary pressure arises from the insistence of the adjustment programme on the elimination of the budget deficit. Because public expenditures are actually not compressible any more, the fiscal gap has to be closed through higher levels of public revenues which can be achieved only by means of propping up fees and tax rates. Subsidies on basic consumption goods and petroleum products must also be phased out. These measures are fanning the flames of inflation.

Inflation distorts the economy and destabilises economic activity as the ensuing uncertainty hampers the conduction of transactions

beyond the very short run.

High prices undermine the purchasing power of the almost stationary incomes to the extent that it sparks demand for wage increases. If wage raises are not given, the steam will build up in the social pot. The wider recourse to industrial action over the past few months is no coincidence. If these raises are granted, consumption will surge. In a situation where the economic adjustment programme decrees liberal import policy, higher consumption entices more imports, which in turn depress economic growth.

The government is the biggest spender so when prices soar, public expenditures climb up as well and thus serve to widen the budget deficit. In this sense, taxes and fees leading to inflation are self-defeating; this is one of the most neglected facts in Jordan.

Everywhere, economic adjustment programmes inaugurate an era of high-rate inflation in developing countries. While advanced countries maintain price increases within a bracket of 1-7 per cent, developing countries suffer inflation rates of more than 10 per cent per annum. The result is that exports of developing countries will perpetually lose the price edge even in their national markets and the exports of advanced countries will maintain the upper hand for ages to come.

On the growth level, the adjustment programme will make it this year; next year is a very different issue. On all counts, the danger is that growth gains may be dumped in the inflationary yard.

## Third World is unhappy about IMF aid to CIS

By Hans Martin Külle

WHICH category of countries is suffering the worst distress today, the Second World, as the former Soviet Union and the East Bloc states were called, or the Third World? Russia's problems tower above everything else if a glance is given to the results of the spring conference of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank which took place at the beginning of May in Washington. The G-7 group of industrialised nations agreed to offer Moscow enormous financial aid to the tune of \$24bn. This hit the headlines and the countries of the Third World felt neglected. They could only appeal to the donor countries that aid to Russia should not be given at the expense of the developing countries.

But conditions have been applied to this aid. Moscow must provide evidence that the conversion of the economy goes ahead as planned. The cutbacks from his reforms, which President Boris Yeltsin has already had to make to the Congress of People's Deputies, were regarded by the Seven as dubious, because they endangered the objective of stabilising the economy. Mr. Yeltsin's vice-premier and chief assistant in these reforms, Yegor Gaidar, hurried to Washington and he was able to assure the members of G-7 that the reforms would be maintained.

Nevertheless, the G-7 members insisted on listing what Russia had to undertake to qualify for aid from the West: the national budget had to be reduced, the state had to cease dabbling in the

economy, inflation had to be fought by a reduction in the growth of the money supply, privatisation legislation had to be enacted, agriculture and energy sectors had to be reformed and an exchange rate system geared to the market economy had to be introduced.

"No reasonable person would doubt that arduously and consistently pressing ahead with economic reforms would ultimately be more important for success than any kind of extensive financial aid."

This is all very right and necessary, but just a bit steep if such a list is presented from the outside. It is not surprising, then, that nationalist voices were raised in Moscow, which were critical of the Western offer to help. If the effort to reform is no longer regarded as the result of their own intention but as a condition imposed from outside, there is the danger that the conversion of the economy will fail.

No reasonable person would doubt that arduously and consistently pressing ahead with economic reforms would ultimately be more important for success than any kind of extensive financial aid. This applies not only to Russia but equally to the other CIS states. With the exception of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan all the CIS countries have all become new members of the IMF and the World Bank. No-one knows how many packages of

financial aid running into billions will be wrapped up for them. It should be pointed out, however, that the other CIS states are in a far worse economic situation than Russia.

But most of the developing countries are in the worst possible situation imaginable. Yet not much was said in Washington about their distress. Just a few days before the conference in Washington began the United Nations Development Programme published an alarming report, Human Development Report 1992. According to this document the gap between the rich and poor countries has become much greater over the past 30 years despite development aid. The income of the richest fifth of the world's population was 60 times greater than the poorest fifth: in 1960 it was "only" 30 times greater.

It goes without saying that this report again makes the old demands for more money for the Third World. But the demands are made in an astonishingly different tone. The report states, for instance, that "The real causes of poverty and human deprivation have their roots deep in the politics of the Third World countries themselves. The world as a whole should not be used as an alibi for their own dormancy. World reforms can be of little use as a replacement for reforms in their own countries." Mahbub ul Haq, former Finance Minister in Pakistan, was responsible for drawing up this report. The points of view expressed in it are noteworthy coming from a man who has unquestioningly cham-



pioned the interests of the Third World.

This brings us back to the matter of internal economic reforms and financial assistance from the outside. The most satisfactory results are achieved when the two are harmoniously combined, look at Korea, look at Mexico. There can be distress with any assistance if consistent reforms are placed under extreme strains. The other way round there is never any success. If only money is pumped into a country and the economy is not reformed, then nothing comes of it, just look at Africa. Experience of this

sort is well-known and has been well documented: hopefully Russia and the other CIS states will learn from this.

Does this mean that the rich countries are acquitted of all responsibility for the countries of the Second and Third World? In no way. The industrialised countries have caused the most harm because they have shut off their markets to the products of the developing countries and the nations in eastern Europe. Exports from the Third World are lessened by about one hundred billion dollars annually because of this, twice as much as develop-

ment aid. The delegates to the Washington conference did not waste words about this, sadly. What is even sadder is that at the final Gatt meeting in June the negotiations look as if they will come to grief after any number of attempts to bring them to a successful conclusion. If it comes to this so much harm will be done that it would be a waste of time organising economic conferences in the future, including the world economic conference scheduled for the end of July, to be grandiosely stage-managed in Munich — Rheinischer Merkur.

## Russia's 'secret weapon' to regain superpower rank — Siberia

By James Flannery

VLADIVOSTOK — Russia still has a "secret weapon" that could make Moscow a superpower capital again — the vast economic potential of Siberia, one of the world's last great wildernesses. Siberia means "sleeping land" in the language of one of its many indigenous ethnic groups. It is a territory of staggering superlatives — so big, as one writer says, that it could easily contain the United States, with room left for most of Europe.

Siberia and the neighbouring Russian far east span much of the northern hemisphere and lie waiting for a huge transformation, perhaps the 21st century's first pioneer task.

To travel thousands of kilometres for 11 days through the eastern regions is to see signs that a slumbering giant may be stirring to life.

It's full of continental diversity, vigour and a sense of fun you'd hardly expect from old images — you can travel indefinitely without ever seeing a salt mine.

There's a spirit of adventure among easterners, on average younger and more adaptable than their Russian compatriots elsewhere, that evokes the 19th century American frontier.

The old Siberia no longer exists, except in the grim ruins of prison camps deep in the hinterland. Dictator Josef Stalin used the territory's frozen vastness as a dumping ground for victims of his terror purges.

Now there are bustling cities, American icecream parlours and movies and Japanese cars for a newly-emerging business class. Newspapers and TV stations, free of censorship after decades of communism, all express a new local pride.

The fast-food outlets in the east

are not — so far — American McDonald's hamburgers but Asian-oriented outlets specialising in seafood delicacies such as crab. You can sit in a Russian cafe, drink strong Chinese beer, eat from a Japanese menu and pay in U.S. dollars.

Weekend crowds wearing Russia's favourite leisurewear, tracksuits and trainer-shoes, stroll down streets where ragged political prisoners once marched off to remote labour camps.

The bookshops of cities like Khabarovsk, Magadan and Vladivostok contain locally-published revelations of camp life by a handful of survivors, all scarcely credible to today's generation. "It was another country," says

one editor.

Free economic zones are emerging here and there to lure foreign investors with tax incentives and profit guarantees.

There are signs of impatience with faraway Moscow's bureaucracy, but officials deny a mood of separatism lurks behind a growing sense of regional identity.

A dozen or more new towns spring up every year.

Trade-hungry Japanese, Korean, Chinese and North American businessmen crowd the hotels of eastern cities, some newly-opened after decades of isolation, like the far eastern naval centre of Vladivostok.

In Khabarovsk, another far eastern hub, there's an international airport from where you can reach the United States, Japan and the Korea.

In the far northeast mining city of Magadan, built by forced labour in the 1930s and '40s, there are growing links with North America, particularly Alaska. Women there advertise eagerly for American husbands.

Vladivostok, which calls itself "the far eastern San Francisco," soon showed its determination to catch up with the rest of the world. The city council decided to build a hospital to treat AIDS patients.

Siberia's pine and birch forests

— the taiga — stretch away to the horizon like the edge of the world. Fears have arisen of ecological damage to this "lung" of the planet through logging operations by Japanese and Korean timber firms. But regional governors say the process is under control.

A massive "go east" drive by Moscow looks certain if Russia is to develop the area, 75 per cent of Russia's territory but with less than a third of its 150 million population.

Economists rate the east as among the world's richest storehouses of raw materials, mostly untouched. Those that are being tapped — timber, minerals, oil, gas, gold, diamonds and furs — swell Russia's foreign currency reserves.

Vladimir Kuznetsov, governor of Vladivostok and the maritime

territory, says: "We have lifted the iron curtain... We must have the right to dispose of all economic resources of the territory, valued at more than \$200 billion. This should interest foreign businessmen."

Victor Ishayev, governor of the rival industrial region of Khabarovsk, says Singapore is an example of progress for the territory, which is twice the size of France with just two million people. Many are unemployed now that defence plants producing aircraft and submarines are idle.

"Foreign links are developing. We have great expertise and a whole range of minerals, virtually a table of the elements. The potential is huge. We are creating market structures and an open society," says Mr. Ishayev. "There is no going back."



## LETTERS

### To apply or to reply?

To the Editor:

I am surprised at the lack of professionalism in our institutions who announce for job vacancies in the Jordanian dailies. The thing that strikes me is that they never reply to any application, whether negatively or positively. Hence one begins to feel that the announcement in the newspaper is put after the job has been taken. So please show some professionalism.

Name withheld upon request

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address, and under special circumstances, letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



# Features

## U.N. meeting appeals for aid to drought-afflicted African countries

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has convened a meeting at headquarters on Tuesday to announce an appeal for \$835 million to assist 10 countries in southern Africa affected by a drought which threatens 18 million people in the region with starvation, even famine.

The Secretary-General will address the drought crisis in southern Africa where, by some estimates, as many as 130 million people may be affected. On the same day, in Harare, Zimbabwe, countries of the Southern African

Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) launched the consolidated United Nations SADCC appeal to mobilise the support which is desperately needed to respond to southern Africa's crisis. The scale of the drought emergency is described as "unprecedented" in its scale.

A donors conference will be held in Geneva on June 1 and 2 to mobilise resources in response to the emergency appeal, and non-governmental organisations involved representatives of the International Monetary Fund

(IMF) and the World Bank.

The consolidated United Nations/SADCC appeal seeks \$685 million for food aid and \$150 million for non-food related activities to benefit Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The drought has no parallel in living memory and affects some 2.6 million square miles of land, the under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, Jan Eliasson, and the executive secretary of SADCC, S.H.S. Makoni, state in the foreword to a report on the drought emergency in southern Africa. It threatens the social fabric and economic structures of several countries of the region, and will have catastrophic consequences for those already ravaged by conflict and war.

The severity of the drought's impact has been exacerbated in these countries, which are still lagging in development, and the report stresses that it is essential that proposed disaster relief actions provide a basis for post-drought recovery and long-term development efforts in the countries concerned.

The present appeal seeks 2.5 million metric tonnes of programme food aid and 1.6 million metric tonnes of targeted food assistance. The appeal covers only the minimum survival needs of livestock protection activities. In addition to direct food aid pledges, the appeal will also seek loans, direct cash contributions or other means to enable countries to purchase some of their food requirements.

The appeal will be part of an ongoing process which will continually seek to update needs as they emerge and bring them to the attention of the international community. It does not include critical rehabilitation and recovery efforts.

The report on the drought emergency says international assistance is urgently needed for the provision of at least 4 million metric tonnes of cereals.

Recent missions of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the world food programme (WFP) report that cereal production in the drought-affected SADCC countries has fallen to some 6 million metric tonnes, or about half of the normal production. Without assistance from donor countries, it is predicted that widespread malnutrition and deaths from famine will be inevitable. Food shortages, coupled with reduced access to water, will heighten the risk of large-scale epidemics, such as cholera,

typhoid and meningitis.

Among the countries targeted for relief aid is Zimbabwe, which until recently was an exporter of food. The most seriously affected of the 10 SADCC countries is Mozambique, where the combination of drought, conflict and insecurity has plunged the country into its worst disaster since independence.

An emergency feeding programme has already begun in some areas of Malawi, where the growing weight of refugee pressures is draining a weakened economy. In Zambia, the drought has exacerbated more than a decade of economic decline.

Among the other SADCC countries, crop production has fallen by 71 per cent in Namibia because of the drought, and livestock deaths have resulted, sharply reduced harvests have severely affected subsistence farmers in Lesotho and most of Botswana's maize crop has failed and water shortages are becoming acute. Two consecutive years of sharply reduced harvests have severely affected Lesotho's subsistence farmers. Swaziland, normally self-sufficient in maize, had a disastrous harvest this year. Persistent and serious food shortages in Angola have led to increased

malnutrition and outbreaks of infectious diseases, against a backdrop of years of conflict and inadequate health services. And in the United Republic of Tanzania, 800,000 people are said to require food assistance.

In some of the countries cited, the drought is threatening structural adjustment programmes and will negatively impact foreign exchange reserves, the report states. Large financial imbalances may occur as governments attempt to mitigate the adverse effects of the drought, and the international community is urged to provide full funding for adjustment programmes to make sure they stay on track.

While the focus of the appeal is drought, the needs of populations who have become unwitting victims of complex emergencies cannot be ignored, the report states, the distinction between people affected by drought and those brought low by conflict is morally unjustified, without food, a child starves, whatever the reason.

In the non-food sector, the appeal provides for only the barest minimum support needed to avert a tragedy of potentially colossal proportions, the report goes on to say, activities drought-affected areas. The protection of

livestock and the bank and the African Development Bank will be critical for post-drought recovery.

Because a continuous and accurate exchange of information is essential to the success of relief efforts, SADCC and WFP have established a logistics advisory centre in Harare to provide technical support to port and transport authorities, to facilitate the relief efforts, SADCC governments have designated high-level officials as national emergency coordinators. It is suggested that joint government / United Nations / NGO coordination networks be strengthened or established, and that governments establish mechanisms for distributing aid to the various target groups.

The dynamics of the emergency will require regular assessments, and an updated appeal will be made later this year to ensure that the international community is kept apprised of emerging needs as well as of successful interventions. A high-level regional task force established by SADCC will work with the United Nations system to coordinate regional and international responses to the drought crisis. — An ESCWA press release.

### Stone laid for Palace of Justice

(Continued from page 1)

psychological atmosphere for the judges to perform their duties.

The minister said pooling all the courts together in one complex would greatly facilitate the work of courts and judges and save time and effort for the public.

The minister expressed appreciation to the government for making available all material, scientific and other elements needed for the project and for caring for the needs of the judges.

He said the 1992 fiscal budget provides for the appointment of 44 new judges and an additional allowance to the serving judges.

Mr. Mbeideen also voiced appreciation to the Ministry of Public Works for its efforts to implement the project.

Public Works Minister Saad Hayel Al Srouf paid tribute to the King for his keenness on establishing justice and promoting the

work of courts in the country. The minister said that the new project was another milestone in the long process of development achieved under King Hussein's reign.

Later, King Hussein and the audience listened to a briefing by the project designer, Rukni Sweiss, who said that the complex will embody the first instance, peace and customs courts as well as those courts which examine cases related to the greater Amman Municipality and income tax, and the criminal courts in addition to the courts of appeal and the court of cassation and the higher court of justice.

Mr. Sweiss said that the complex would include the offices of notary public, wings for the public prosecutors, a central library, a room for prayers and a shelter. Attached to the complex there will be 28 sheds for those who write petitions and requests to courts as well as a carpark enough for 550 vehicles.

### Israel continues to raid Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

Witnesses said thick black smoke billowed over the hit areas — Mita, Jarjouch, 'Ain Bouswar and Arab Salim villages in Iqlim Al Toufah mountain ridge, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Israeli gunners and gunners of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) shelled the same areas hit earlier in the raids on Iqlim Al Toufah, security sources said.

They said Hizbollah guerrillas armed with machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades cordoned off the attacked villages, whose population had fled to safer areas since last week.

"Hundreds of heavily armed Hizbollah men totally sealed off the villages," one witness told Reuters. "The streets are totally deserted. The villages are ghost towns."

"Kill us, we will become more enlightened," read a red Hizbollah banner in Jarjouch.

One source said many Hizbollah bases dug into the hills had

been hit. Describing the damage, he said a rocket made a six-metre wide hole in a mountain base in 'Ain Bouswar.

"The Israelis are burning the hell out of the area," said motorist Abbas Allouh who watched the raids from the nearby village of Habboush.

"The planes are striking their targets then disappearing for a few minutes only to come back for another attack," he told Reuters.

Security sources said Israeli planes also flew over the southern port city of Sidon and the ancient town of Baalbek, a major Hizbollah bastion in the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon. The sources said Syria had moved hundreds of troops into the Bekaa over the weekend.

Israeli planes hit four Hizbollah posts in the Bekaa and the south last Thursday, killing 13 people.

Egypt accused Israel of "flagrant aggression" against Lebanon and urged the United States, Russia and the United Nations to help stop it.

### Palestinians want EC sponsorship

(Continued from page 1)

time Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, said "the security of Europe is so much more interlinked with the Middle East than (that of) any other region." Mr. Shaath also spoke after meeting with the Dutch foreign minister.

Mr. Van den Broek, whose mission was the last to hold the six-month rotating EC presidency, is a member of the EC's foreign policy triad along with the foreign ministers of Portugal and Britain, the current and future community presidents.

In a statement released after the meeting with Dr. Ashrawi, Mr. Van den Broek said he "pledged to continue working toward an active role for the (EC) in the peace process."

Dr. Shaath said he was satisfied with the PLO's (unofficial) participation in the Mideast negotiations, although the PLO has no public contact with the U.S. and

no high-level delegates at the negotiations table.

Israel bans contacts with the PLO but Dr. Ashrawi and other members of the negotiating team have attended bilateral talks in the Middle East which have included Israeli delegates.

"It is very clear to everybody, including the U.S. that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinians. Hanan (Ashrawi) and other delegates have daily contacts with the American administration," said Dr. Shaath, adding that several meetings have included Secretary of State James Baker.

Dr. Shaath said he hoped the U.S. and Israel would soon drop what he called a "diplomatic charade," behind the scenes at the talks and allow the PLO to speak to all delegates directly.

The PLO aide said the group's main aim now was to achieve Palestinian self-rule by November, as agreed by Washington and Moscow.

### Sudan peace talks open in Abuja

(Continued from page 1)

The SPLA, also represented in Abuja by the breakaway "Nasir" group, has been fighting since 1983 for autonomy for southern Sudan from the government in Khartoum.

The government is offering the south autonomy in a federal system. Non-Muslim areas would be exempt from Islamic law.

Col. Garang's SPLA faction wants a united and secular Sudan. Failing that, it wants confederation or lastly self-determination, which a delegation official said could include secession.

The Nasir group sees no sign of change in Khartoum and believes self-determination is probably the only answer.

Col. Khalifa gave no indication that Khartoum was ready for major compromise but a member of his team said earlier the government was ready to consider any proposals.

As far as the sharing of power

is concerned, we are proposing a federal system. We are open to discuss the powers and prerogatives of the states vis-a-vis central government," said Ahmad Al-Tijani Salih, Sudan's ambassador to Lagos.

"We are ready to consider what proposals the other parties have in this connection, including a transitional period whereby a referendum can be made on unity, federation, confederation or otherwise," he said.

The government, however, appears convinced it is winning the war and the SPLA has little choice but to agree to its terms. It wants to keep control of the south, which has oil and possibly other minerals, and rain for agriculture, for economic reasons as well as to spread its brand of Islam.

The SPLA has been trying to stage off a military offensive in recent months but still controls wide areas of countryside.

## VACANCY

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## Seles scores easy victory in 1st match of French Open

PARIS (Agencies) — The Monica Seles express began rolling at Roland Garros as the defending champion thundered to a 6-1 6-0 victory over Frenchwoman Catherine Mothes in her opening match at the French Open Tuesday.

Seles started with a rush, blasting winners off forehand and backhand to take the first four games in just 11 minutes and she stayed relentlessly on track to take the match in 47.

The 21-year-old Mothes tried to break Seles' rhythm by tossing up a series of "moon-balls" but her weak first serve left her like a sitting duck against the power of the top seed.

The 18-year-old Seles, aiming to become the first woman in more than half a century to win the French title for three successive years, goes on to a second round match with either Stephanie Reuter of the Netherlands or German Karin Kschwendt.

"It's always very tough in the early round if you're playing someone who's not as good as the top players," she said. "It's hard to stay concentrating and be intense but I want to take one match at a time and do what I need to win. It's completely different to playing against Gaby (Sabatini) or someone like that."

But it was a good comfortable first round which turned out pretty well.

Thirteenth seed Mary Pierce of France was also in a hurry, wrapping up a quick 6-1 6-1 victory over Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia.

The Canadian-born Pierce, who has an American father and French mother, is, at 17, the second youngest seed in the tournament.

**Samppras advances**

Third seed Pete Sampras of the United States elected not to hang about in his resumed match with Marc Rosset of Switzerland, which had been interrupted in the fifth set by Monday's torrential downpour.

Serving at 4-2 but with break-point against him, Sampras sent down a booming ace on the first point of the day, went on to win the game and served out the match at 7-6 4-6 6-4 3-6 6-3, finishing off with another ace.

"It was a situation I'd never been in before," he said. "It was a nerve-racking night. If he'd won that first point, the match would have started all over again."

"Fortunately I popped an ace down the middle. That was working for me yesterday and it did again today."

Former U.S. Open champion Sampras, not always at ease in the past on clay, seemed vulnerable to a specialist of the surface like Rosset.

But Sampras, a serve-and-volleyer who prefers hard courts, said he was feeling more and more at ease on clay.

"Attacking players like Yannick Noah (of France) have won here and Stefan Edberg (of Sweden) was in the final so that gives me encouragement," he said.

"I have the confidence I can do the same thing. It's a surface I want to play well on."

The opening centre court match between 10th seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, three times a past winner in Paris, and Spain's Sergi Bruguera was interrupted in the second set because the court was still slippery from Monday's rain.

But play resumed after a break of half an hour with Lendl leading 6-4 2-1.

Lendl, who has enjoyed little success lately, was in dominant form after the break and boosted his confidence with a straight-sets win.

The 6-4 6-2 6-1 scoreline was a good comeback for the 32-year-old Lendl, who has not played at Roland Garros since 1989 when he was beaten in an epic fourth-round match by eventual winner Michael Chang of the United States.

"I have been playing well in practice for a long time but I lack confidence in matches," said Lendl, who has lost in the first round in five tournaments this year.

Lendl, who has dropped out of the top 10 world rankings for the first time in more than 10 years, made a shaky start on the centre court and there were four breaks of serve in the first six games.

But, after the break early in the second set to lay more clay on the damp court, the Czechoslovak settled down.

Bruguera, 21, began to make frequent errors and refused to move from his favourite spot, well behind the baseline.

In the final set, Lendl broke for 3-1 and again for 5-1. An ace took him to matchpoint and a Bruguera backhand error gave him victory in one hour 34 minutes.

Andres Gomez of Ecuador, playing at Roland Garros for the first time since he won the title in 1990, made his way into the second round with a 6-3 6-2 3-6 6-3 win over Christian Minussi of Argentina.

Gomez, now ranked 59th in the world and unseeded at the tournament where he was once crowned king, suffered a spectacular decline after winning the French title. Aged 32, he is the fifth oldest player in the men's draw.

**Capiati struggles to win**

Women's fifth seed Jennifer Capriati, like her compatriot Sampras, was left with her match unfinished by Monday's rain interruption but she came out with a new determination on Tuesday.

Capriati, who had four match points against Beate Reizmaier Monday before the Austrian levelled the match at one-set all in a tiebreak, needed just 16 minutes on centre court to finish the job.

Leading 6-1 6-7 2-1 overnight, Capriati was broken in the opening game on Tuesday but then reeled off four games in a row.

Capriati said afterwards she felt she had learned from the match, which had lasted an hour-and-a-half Monday. "I have a tough time playing first rounds and that's one of the things I've

got to work on — just concentrating," she said.

"But it was good for me to have a match like this. I think the rain helped me. It made me think about it and how I could play better today."

**Graf confident**

Meanwhile Steffi Graf says her dark days in Paris are over.

After struggling with health problems, injuries and personal turmoil, the two-time French Open champion says she's feeling better than she has in years and is eager to play.

"I'm happy on the court. I think I'm more confident too, and when you realise that, some things start to work better. I think you enjoy it more," she told reporters Monday after her first-round match.

The 22-year-old German, eager to end Monica Seles' two-year hold on the women's title, swept past Rene Simpson-Alter of Canada 6-3, 6-1 in 63 minutes.

Graf, the champion here in 1987 and 1988, has battled personal and physical problems in recent years.

Chronic sinusitis kept her sniffling during matches. Last year she was bothered by a scuffle in the stands between her father and an American tennis fan who has befriended many players.

Earlier this year she pulled out of the Australian Open with flu and mumps. A month later she was back in the headlines — after a noisy photographer caught her sunbathing nude at her pool in Florida.

At the same time, a German couple was in court for having tried to blackmail her father in a paternity suit. They later received prison sentences and a heavy fine.

No wonder tennis seemed secondary.

"I have to say I haven't really been this healthy for quite some time and I don't have any injuries, which I had a lot last year," she said. "It hasn't been like this for a long time."

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Katrin Krabbe

## IAAF is almost certain to delay Krabbe decision

BONN (R) — Athletics chiefs will almost certainly postpone a ruling on the Katrin Krabbe doping case this week, leaving the German sprinter a nervous wait to see if she can run at the Barcelona Olympics.

International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) German official August Kirsch said the IAAF would not make any decision at a meeting in Toronto and pass the matter to its arbitration panel.

"Not much is going to happen in Toronto," Mr. Kirsch, an IAAF council member told Reuters. "The council is 99.9 per cent certain to decide to give the case to its arbitration panel. It has to be done that way."

The IAAF must decide whether to back last month's controversial lifting of a four-year ban on the double world sprint champion and her team mates Grit Breuer and Silke Moeller by the German Athletics Federation's (DLV) Legal Commission.

Krabbe and her two fellow ex-East Germans were originally banned by the DLV in February for manipulating urine samples after they supplied identical samples during random tests in training at the start of the year.

But the legal commission, a DLV arbitration panel, decided to lift the ban because it said there were too many holes in the evidence against the athletes.

Mr. Kirsch, who has recently had talks with IAAF leading officials, said the IAAF arbitration panel would not be able to meet until mid-June, just over a month before the start of the games on July 25.

Earlier this month the IAAF panel in London confirmed a two-year ban on American world 400 metres record holder Harry "Butch" Reynolds who tested positive for steroids.

Mr. Kirsch, who is attending the meeting in Canada, said: "We

have to deal with it in the same way as the Reynolds case with a hearing in London."

"This is the first case with manipulation of samples. We could not have dealt with the matter without the parties involved, DLV and Krabbe and her advisers."

"Krabbe is still free to run nationally and internationally until the final decision is made."

The three-day IAAF Toronto Council meeting starts Friday. Krabbe has already said she has found it hard to concentrate fully on her training because of the affair.

The blonde sprinter, who stands to lose millions in advertising contracts if the original ban is upheld, has not run since it was lifted at the start of April.

Even if the panel manages to make a date for its hearing earlier in June, the 22-year-old German still faces an uncertain summer training for the games without knowing whether she can even be selected.

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## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Make a special point to do those things that will bring improved health and vitality. Solving a problem with an ally pays big dividends from unexpected sources. Put more charm in your expression.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Now you find that discussions of a very mundane nature are best for you if you are to make full advantage of the energy released by today's aspects.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) A witty associate has all kinds of plans to add to the good things of life and listen carefully to understand so you get your proper share of them.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Do your tasks today in such a manner that you get out from under some duties which are not to your liking and you eliminate them once and for all.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Arranging your time so you spend a satisfactory number of hours with both your attachment and your friends will not be easy but can be done.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) All kinds of conditions now come to light to show you more clearly where you stand in regard to your family as well as to outside contacts.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) This day can be good in that it can show you how to combine your

most practical ideas so that they will work for you in your everyday routines.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You have some fixed ideas about how to increase your property or money and it needs to be presented in a very practical way to money people.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A partner of much strength of character does not see eye to eye with you about a wish that is important to you but give your best arguments anyway.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Something of an intimate nature can see to interfere with the activities you have agreed to do but rise above this and do them efficiently.

**CAPRICORN:** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Think about what will draw your friends and your mate together in some amusement or recreation of mutual pleasure to all who are concerned.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You have some important civic or credit matters to attend to let home conditions wait until you have finished them before concentrating on family matters.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Your mind is filled with very down to earth methods by which you will be able to have a greater amount of operative skill where it counts the most.

## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I'm not mad at you, I'm angry with you! Can't you tell the difference?"

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. Unbelievable!

**NOFET** **VOFAR** **SLATTE** **ZILZES**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "I'm not mad at you, I'm angry with you! Can't you tell the difference?"

Yesterday's Jumbles: FINIS DUCAT NIMBLE ACTING

Answer: She quit posing as a saint when she discovered that her husband wasn't this — AN ANGEL.

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by George Uquhart

ACROSS

1 It, town  
6 Incan country  
10 Fake  
14 Zodiac sign  
15 Malvolent  
16 Author Victor  
17 Parallel with the keel  
19 Dairy case item  
20 Chemical suffix  
21 Soy or time  
22 The  
24 The general  
25 Wagnerian goddess  
26 Vocation  
28 Male hostile  
33 — a time  
34 Con — (music)  
35 Percussion instrument  
36 Precious  
37 Knightwear  
38 Far away; oral  
39 Mystery dog?  
40 Bard  
41 " — Street  
42 Blue!  
43 Be steadfast  
44 Woman's hair gadget  
45 Two some  
46 Knitting stitch  
47 James or Neil  
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60 Make a speech  
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1 Out of danger  
2 Golf club  
3 Shamrock land  
4 Once called  
5 Red —  
6 Foot lever  
7 Author Hunter  
8 Range of the Atlas mts.  
9 Hidden  
10 Classroom assignment  
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12 Mellowing agent  
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26 Musical finales  
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31 Vail material  
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## NATO defence ministers meet; U.S. backs peacekeeping plan

BRUSSELS — NATO defence Ministers met Tuesday to discuss major changes in their post-cold war military structure and the United States backed a revolutionary proposal for the alliance to become involved in peacekeeping missions.

Germany, anxious to reassure its NATO partners on the role of a proposed joint corps with France, said the new force would strengthen the alliance, not weaken it.

German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe met his U.S. counterpart, Dick Cheney, and said he had explained more details of the 35,000-strong "Eurocorps," the nucleus of more independent European defences.

"I made clear it was a strengthening of NATO, not a weakening," Mr. Ruehe told reporters. "I think this contributed to a better understanding."

Mr. Cheney told reporters travelling with him from Washington that the United States backed a Dutch proposal to involve NATO in peacekeeping beyond its own borders for the first time.

"I could conceive of circumstances in which it would make sense for NATO as an alliance to make a decision to commit peacekeeping forces," Mr. Cheney said.

But he cautioned that it would be up to the United States and other alliance countries to decide on a case-by-case basis whether they wanted to commit troops to a particular situation.

He also said the nine-nation Western European Union

(WEU), whose members are all in NATO, could be used in the same way. The new Franco-German Corps, to be operational by 1995, is intended to come under the command of the WEU.

NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, has until now been limited to the defence of its 16 members. The peacekeeping proposal — suggested by the Netherlands and expected to be approved at a meeting of alliance foreign ministers in Oslo next week — would extend that role.

But it would provide only for peacekeeping under strict conditions, not for Gulf War-style military intervention.

It would bring NATO into a domain that has until now been the preserve of the United Nations.

The move could pave the way for NATO forces to take a buffer role between warring factions in, for example, Yugoslavia or Nagorno-Karabakh, scenes of bitter conflict in an increasingly fragmented Europe.

The idea is that NATO could offer assets — from military advice to planes, supplies or troops — for peacekeeping if asked by the 52-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

"I think it (peacekeeping) is a mission that ought to be looked at by NATO," Mr. Cheney said.

"Given the trends and directions we see in the world, peacekeeping functions may well take on more importance in the future."

"NATO, to be a viable entity for addressing European

security concerns, needs to address this issue."

The NATO ministers were also expected to give final approval to a U.S. request for help in paying part of the costs of storing tanks, guns and other military hardware in Europe.

Mr. Cheney was expected to make a final pitch for NATO to allow such expenses to be covered by the alliance's infrastructure budget.

Mr. Cheney Monday rejected proposals that Washington halt or reduce nuclear tests in line with Russian and French initiatives.

"I haven't yet seen an argument for a lower level of testing than we currently have," said Mr. Cheney. "I just think that would be a serious mistake."

He told reporters travelling with him to the NATO defence ministers' meeting in Brussels that about six underground tests conducted each year by the United States were the minimum needed to ensure the safety and reliability of American nuclear arms.

But another senior U.S. defence official said the administration, under growing pressure from Congress and other nations to end testing after the cold war, was considering some options to cut back U.S. tests and perhaps eventually end them.

President George Bush will meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Washington next month and they are certain to discuss Mr. Yeltsin's call for the United States to join current Russian and French nuclear test moratoriums that last through

1992. Meanwhile, a confidential document revealed that NATO's new strategy is to win any future conflicts on its own terms, if necessary by carrying the fight to the enemy after an immediate response to any attack.

The document, detailing NATO's military strategy for conventional and nuclear forces in the post-cold war era, was made available to Reuters by sources who said they wanted more public debate on the issue involved.

Reuters was asked not to give full quotes from the 30-page document, which contains military guidance for implementing the new strategic concept agreed at a NATO summit in Rome.

It lays out key geographical areas that should remain under alliance control in a crisis — including the approaches to the Suez Canal — and identifies areas of instability like the former Soviet Union and the Middle East as possible sources of conflict that could spill over into NATO territory.

The document, approved by NATO defence ministers last December, says the risk of a massed attack on the alliance has been removed and outlines how Western forces will be scaled down into smaller, more mobile and multinational units.

But it adds that "the alliance (must) retain an ability to generate larger, more capable conventional forces" to counter any major threat and says NATO must achieve air superiority and control of the seas early in any crisis.

## Cardinal: No massive fraud in Philippine elections

MANILA (R) — Top Philippine churchman Cardinal Jaime Sin Tuesday condemned vote-buying in May 11 elections but said the worst fears of massive fraud, terrorism and a possible military takeover had proved unfounded. He called on Filipinos to respect the results, which showed former defence chief Fidel Ramos leading rivals by more than one million votes in the presidential race, and said the church was ready to work with the next president.

"We can work with anybody. The church worked with Communists (in Eastern Europe)," the Manila Roman Catholic archbishop told reporters after a speech to business executives.

Before the polls, in thinly-veiled attacks from the pulpit, Cardinal Sin had urged the predominantly Catholic nation to reject General Ramos, a Protestant who implemented martial law from 1972 to 1981 for the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"After a suspense-filled, not tension-ridden, election exercise which spawned fears of wholesale fraud, terrorism and grim rumours of impending military coups, I am happy that as far as I know none of these took place," Cardinal Sin said in his speech.

He said he was unhappy about "the vast amount of money that was used to prostitute the allegiances of the wealthy and buy the votes of the poor."

"Such selfish corruption of the electorate we continue to condemn as sinful and morally wrong, even if the law, for lack of evidence, may be unable to prosecute the perpetrators," he said, speaking just before the Congress was to begin the official counting of votes.

With 70 per cent of the estimated 25 million votes counted by a private poll body, Gen. Ramos had garnered 4.18 million votes. Former Judge Miriam Santiago was in second place with 3.13 million and industrialist Eduardo Cojuangco was third with 3.10 million.

Cardinal Sin's seemingly favoured candidate, Ramon Mitra, trailed in fourth place in the unofficial count and has conceded defeat.

Mrs. Santiago, Mr. Cojuangco and Mrs. Imelda Marcos have protested against alleged rigging by the government of the vote to favour Gen. Ramos, who is backed by outgoing President Corason Aquino.

Mrs. Santiago Saturday launched a "fast to death" in protest against the alleged vote fraud but ended her protest Monday after appeals from Cardinal Sin and other priests.

"The drama is over and whoever wins now has to be respected and we have to respect the will of the people," Cardinal Sin said. "God has spoken through the will of the people."

"They say there is cheating, but that is always the case after elections. We have to finish with this problem or else we cannot take off."

Cardinal Sin, who supported the 1986 "people power" revolt that ousted the late dictator Marcos and installed Mrs. Aquino in his place, praised the president for preparing the way for a smooth transfer of power to her elected successor, Mrs. Aquino steps down on June 30 after six years in office.

The military said Tuesday it had arrested four air force personnel who tried to recruit helicopter pilots to bomb the presidential palace and military camps as a signal for a coup.

A spokesman said the four enlisted men offered the pilots lucrative jobs in graft-ridden government offices if the coup, supposed to have been launched before the election, succeeded.

The four were arrested last week and were being interrogated, the spokesman said.

## Thais lift emergency

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's acting premier Tuesday lifted a state of emergency imposed during bloody anti-government protests last week and the justice minister said the ruling coalition had agreed to dissolve itself to make way for a new government.

"It appears now that the said state of emergency has ended and it is deemed appropriate to terminate the declaration of the state of emergency," said an order signed by the acting Premier, Meechai Rueschapan.

The decree had been imposed on Bangkok and some provinces on May 18 by General Suchinda Kraprayoon, who resigned as prime minister Sunday after his troops killed scores of protesters last week.

The emergency allowed the authorities to decree a curfew and a ban on political rallies.

Justice Minister Sawas Khamprakorn told reporters the five parties which chose Gen. Suchinda as premier had agreed in a Monday meeting to dissolve their coalition, clearing the way for the appointment of a new premier.

He said a new coalition could include opposition parties.

He said the meeting suggested four possible prime ministers — the leader of the opposition, General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Chuan Leekpai, head of the opposition Democrat Party, Arthit Kamlang-Ek, a member of the pro-military Samakkhi Tham Party, or Samak Sundaravej, head of the smallest party in the coalition Prachakorn Thai.

Parliament agreed unanimously Monday to constitutional amendments to prevent unelected military men like Gen. Suchinda from heading governments, the main demand of mass street protests since late April.

Pro-democracy groups are now demanding that the military Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal Kasit Rajanani and Army Chief General Issarapong Nonnajakdee follow Gen. Suchinda's example and resign.

They say all three should stand trial for murder and are opposed to an amnesty decree issued Saturday that appears to rule this out.

Mr. Meechai said the decree was intended to protect civilians and not military officials, who were already protected under existing laws.

But asked by reporters if it would be possible to prosecute them, he replied: "If they did wrong. We don't intend to protect them by this decree."

"According to current laws they violated certain laws," he said.

Hospitals have reported that 49 people have died as a result of the protests so far, but doctors and diplomats believe that the toll is at least double. Nearly 180 wounded are still being treated.

The Nation newspaper reported that Bangkok's Metropolitan Police Bureau had received reports of 589 missing persons after the military clampdown.

Professor Vithoon Eungprabhanth, professor of forensic medicine at Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital, said that he believed on the basis of eyewitness reports that the army could still be hiding more than 100 bodies.

"Dead bodies were not transferred from the scene to hospitals — I think a lot of numbers," he said.

He said he had formed a research group to try to find out where the bodies were hidden.

He said witnesses had reported seeing soldiers loading bodies onto military trucks but they were never taken to hospital.

Kim Dae-Jung, South Korea's best-known opposition leader, was selected Tuesday to run for president and pledged to end "military rule" and work for greater democracy.

"Many people now believe our Democratic Party (DP) has a good chance of winning the forthcoming presidential poll," Mr. Kim told a cheering crowd at the DP's national convention.

"The first reason is that the people are totally distrustful of 30 years of military rule," said Mr. Kim in a reference to former generals who have held office as president.

"The people will be able to see the most democratic and stable government in the national history if our party wins the election," Mr. Kim said.

As Mr. Kim was announced the winner, the crowd filling the convention stadium cheered, clapped and raised placards with his portrait, chanting "Kim Dae-Jung, Kim Dae-Jung."

A total of 1,413 of 2,348 party delegates at the convention voted for Mr. Kim, while his only rival Lee Ki-Taek won 925 votes. The remaining 10 votes were invalid.

The nomination sets Kim Dae-Jung, co-leader of the DP, on course for a showdown with his former opposition rival, Kim Young-Sam, who was chosen last week by the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) to stand for president.

Analysts predict a close fight in the elections, expected by the end of this year, between the two Kim's who formerly stood side-by-side in a pro-democracy struggle against an authoritarian government. Kim Dae-Jung insists the military still exercises power behind the scenes.

Fighting has increased sharply since peace talks between three guerrilla groups and the government in Mexico were postponed earlier this month until October after the two sides failed to agree on an agenda.

Military commanders said a guerrilla offensive showed the rebels were still bent on seizing power by force despite their participation in peace talks.

The subversive attitude has not changed," Gen. Gil Ber-mudez said. "They still haven't shown any sign of any direction other than that of taking power through violent action."

Five policemen were killed Monday when the FARC blew up a truck carrying them at Pauna, 120 kilometres north of Bogota, military sources said.

Four guerrillas were killed in two other clashes, they said.

Colombian planes pounded rebel positions, 60 killed

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — Colombian war planes pounded guerrilla positions in the Andes Mountains and military sources said about 60 rebels and soldiers had died in the fiercest fighting for months in Colombia's guerrilla war.

General Ramon Gil Bermudez, the acting army commander, said he estimated that 40 guerrillas had died in three days of fighting around Dabeiba, in the foothills of the Andes some 400 kilometres northwest of the capital Bogota.

The figure included eight guerrillas killed by the army Monday afternoon, he told reporters.

Fourteen soldiers had been killed and 14 wounded since guerrillas of the Marxist Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) tried to occupy a town in the area last week, military sources said.

About 1,500 soldiers forced the 500 guerrillas back into the mountains where they took up defensive positions. Gen. Gil Bermudez said the air force was using A-37, K-Fix and Mirage planes to bombard the guerrilla positions.

He said two tanks and a helicopter from a city they believe is dominated by Manhattan borough.

Last year, a Texas state lawmaker considered introducing a bill to create a separate state "Old Texas" — from 25 counties in the Texas panhandle out of concern that the legislature wasn't paying to his region. No action was taken.

The ballot measure is very simple. It just asks voters whether California should be divided into two states," said Stan Statham, a Republican state assemblyman and the leader of the breakaway movement. "I think this may be the most important question Californians will ever be asked."

The movement started tongue-

## Army pledges to end war in Sarajevo

BEIGRADE (AP) — A commander of federal troops in Sarajevo said Tuesday the Yugoslav army was ready to end the "dirty war" in the Bosnian capital if allowed to leave peacefully. "Our side is ready to end the dirty war in Sarajevo and finish with this agony and hell," Yugoslav Army Col. Komnen Zarkovic said in an interview with the Associated Press from the Bosnian capital.

His statement came one day after Serb-led Yugoslavia, in an apparent effort to stave off tough Western sanctions, distanced itself from the bloody warfare in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Col. Zarkovic charged Muslim-led forces in Bosnia were stalling negotiations over the withdrawal of some 1,500 Yugoslav soldiers and their families from three barracks in the strife-torn city.

"The negotiations are deadlocked over a few rifles and a handful of ammunition," Col. Zarkovic said, adding that Muslim snipers were blocking the barracks.

About 300 Yugoslav soldiers and family members were evacuated Sunday from one army barracks and their weapons handed over to U.N. observers. Withdrawal from the three other facilities stalled over who will gain control of artillery and other heavy weaponry in them.

The army said earlier this month that it would pull out of Bosnia by May 19. Croat and Muslim fighters had blocked their withdrawal from Sarajevo to make them leave the heavy weapons behind.

An estimated 100,000 Yugoslav soldiers were stationed in Bosnia when the fighting began. About 80 per cent are Bosnian Serbs and are likely to remain to fight along with Bosnian Serb irregulars against Muslims and Croats.

The fighting, which erupted in late February when Bosnian Muslims and Croats voted to secede from the Serb-led Yugoslavia, has claimed over 2,200 lives and left thousands of people homeless. Serbs in Bosnia oppose independence.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug



Serbian soldiers take cover from a hail of bullets flying over their heads during a street battle in Sarajevo

News Agency reported from Lisbon, Portugal that the leader of Bosnia's Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, said his forces were prepared to remove their heavy artillery from the outskirts of Sarajevo, if the Yugoslav army is permitted to leave and there are international guarantees for Serbs living in the city.

The Serbs have pounded Sarajevo from the surrounding hills for weeks, although a relative calm has prevailed for the past six days.

Col. Zarkovic said the army was ready to deblock Sarajevo International Airport, allowing humanitarian aid for the city which is short of food and medicines.

"We are ready to do everything in the name of peace. We will deblock everything," Col. Zarkovic said.

On Monday, the presidency of Yugoslavia, now comprising only Serbia and its ally Montenegro, said in a statement that it "distances itself from all unacceptable acts of different military formations in Bosnia, including the formations of the Serbian people."

"Yugoslavia openly calls on all warring sides to immediately stop the bombardment of Sarajevo and Mostar, and the destruction of other cities and historical monuments," it said, adding that it supported U.N. relief and peacekeeping missions.

The fierce bombardment of Sarajevo and Mostar, attacks on

relief, workers and an offensive that has seized two-thirds of Bosnia have led the United States to impose sanctions against Serbia and to seek similar steps by European nations.

The United States, Germany and others claim that Serbia is invading its erstwhile federation partners in a land grab.

In Podgorica, capital of Montenegro, a grenade exploded Monday at an election rally of an ultra-nationalist political party, injuring 40 people, Tanjug said.

The grenade exploded at a rally of the Serbian Radical Party, which is allied with Serbia's Socialist President Slobodan Milosevic and is taking part in May 31 elections for the parliament of the newly reconstituted, smaller Yugoslavia.

The party's leader, Vojislav Seselj, had just called for the expulsion of "disloyal" Croats, Muslims and ethnic Albanians from the new Yugoslavia.

Seselj was slightly wounded in the foot, newspapers reported Tuesday.

Meanwhile, ethnic Albanian writer Ibrahim Rugova has been elected president of a self-proclaimed Republic of Kosovo after an election held in defiance of Serbian authorities.

Tadei Rodipi, president of the electoral commission, said that Mr. Rugova, the only candidate for president, received between 90 and 99 per cent of the vote and that 80 delegates were elected to a 100-seat parliament.

Relations between Russia and Ukraine, two of the three Slav founding members of the new organisation, have been dogged by a series of rows on military, economic and political issues.

The treaty area mapped out by NATO and the former Warsaw Pact. The area extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural Mountains, deep in former Soviet territory.

The reductions — negotiated between the 16 NATO nations and the six of the now-defunct Warsaw Pact — were designed to ease Western fears of a surprise Soviet attack.

The table released by NATO shows Russia retaining 6,400 tanks, followed by 4,080 for Ukraine, 1,800 for Belarus and smaller amounts for Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Of the 20,000 armoured combat vehicles allotted the former Soviet Union, 11,480 would go to Russia, 5,050 to Ukraine, 2,600 to Belarus and smaller amounts to Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, which lie in

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## Russia, Kazakhstan forge economic, military ties

MOSCOW (R) — Russia and Kazakhstan signed an economic and military cooperation treaty Monday, setting an example for other members of the struggling Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"Russia and Kazakhstan have always set standards for the relationship between Commonwealth states," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said after signing the treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said other states might seek similar deals soon. "We hope that a lot (of states) will want to sign a similar treaty," he said.

The treaty, the first of its kind between former Soviet republics, provides for open frontiers for goods and services and lays the basis for a common market.

Russia and Kazakhstan also formed a single security zone, which they pledged to defend together in a new alliance. The provision is similar to that allowed for in a pact signed earlier this month by the two countries and three other Commonwealth states.

Russia's nuclear umbrella forms the basis for the military alliance, since Kazakhstan, along with two other former Soviet republics — Ukraine and Belarus — has pledged to become a nuclear-free state.

Some of the nuclear arms once deployed in Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Belarus will be destroyed under the 1991 Soviet-American Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

The remainder will be handed over to Russia.

Russia and Kazakhstan have come to form the backbone of an unstable Commonwealth of Independent States which replaced the Soviet Union in December 1991.

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## COLUMN

### Jay Leno begins new Tonight Show legacy

BURBANK, California (AP) — It was still The Tonight Show, but the inauguration of Jay Leno brought a new set, a new band and a new way of entertaining late-night television viewers.

"Let's see how you all feel in 30 years," Leno told the cheering crowd at the start of his monologue. Johnny Carson retired after presiding over the show for 30 years. Fans lined up early for a chance to be part of Leno's first studio audience as host, rather than guest-host, a role he filled for five years. Leno, the technician, came from outside the studio. Carson's NBC Orchestra, in their stead was a romantic set featuring pillars and mood lighting and jazz musician Branford Marsalis, the new musical director. "Carson's been great and so has Jay," said Jim Bowser of Monte Vista, Colorado. He was among about 50 people waiting outside NBC's Studio One.

Pregnant 'man' expects caesarian birth next month

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines (R) — "Carlo," the pregnant man of the Philippines, is expected to give birth by caesarian delivery, probably next month, doctors said Tuesday. The 32-year-old male nurse, whom local doctors say is six months pregnant, is a hermaphrodite born with both male and female sexual organs. The man, whose real name has not been made public, has been given the nickname Carlo, says he is thrilled and delighted about the prospects of motherhood. "My breasts are already big enough and I am starting to lactate," said Carlo, who underwent an operation in 1988 to open his vaginal passage and began monthly menstruation after hormonal treatment. Employed as a male nurse by the Department of Health in nearby Malaybalay, Bukidnon province, 840 kilometres south of Manila, Carlo was one of 38 hermaphrodites placed under the care of the World Health Organisation in 1985. "An ultra-sound has been conducted and it has been confirmed that inside Carlo's womb is a healthy baby completely with all physical faculties," said Bukidnon provincial health officer Jose Cabuguan. Doctors fear, however, that he might not have a full nine-month pregnancy because his plevic bone structure has remained that of a man.

Deathbed patient seeks leech treatment

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A South African man dying from a rare blood disease plans to try to cure himself with blood-sucking leeches. Conservationists at the Natal Parks Board said Roy Johnson had asked them to provide the leeches and they had sent him 40. The board said Johnson could no longer afford the 100,000 rand (\$8,000) a year he was spending on conventional medicine. He had heard that the secretions of leeches were effective in treating his disease, known as Alpha One Trypsin Deficiency.

Boy turns father in for allegedly selling drugs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A 12-year-old boy who recently completed a drug education programme turned his father in for allegedly selling marijuana and beating his mother, police said. Officers arrested Raphael San-doval, 32, for investigation of spousal battery, Police Sgt. Dan Mastro said. The boy's name was not released. "We drive up and this little guy is crying and saying, 'my dad's beating my mom. My dad's a dope dealer. You have to arrest him,'" Sgt. Mastro said. The boy told police he still loved his father and wanted to get help for him. "He told us he had just finished the Dare programme — Drug Abuse Resistance Education — at his junior high school, and because of this, he felt compelled to help his father," Sgt. Mastro said. The police department must sponsor the programme. The mother suffered cuts and bruises but was not seriously injured, he said. Officers arrested Mr. Sandoval as he sat in a trailer in the back yard of the Conger Park home. A search turned up about 6 pounds (3 kilograms) of marijuana and two stolen handguns, Sgt. Mastro said. He was taken to jail, Mr. Sandoval gave his son words of encouragement. Sgt. Mastro said.

French minister in Colombia

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